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Editor's Note: The President was at Camp David, MD, on April 12, the closing date of this issue. Releases and announcements issued by the Office of the Press Secretary but not received in time for inclusion in this issue will be printed next week.

WEEKLY COMPILATION OF

PRESIDENTIAL DOCUMENTS

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Week Ending Friday, April 12, 2002

Interview With the United Kingdom's ITV Television Network

April 4, 2002

Situation in the Middle East

Trevor McDonald. Mr. President, the situation in the Middle East is desperate beyond words. How far are you prepared to go to resolve the crisis?

The President. Well, today, I gave a speech which shows my resolve to work with all parties concerned to try to achieve a lasting peace. On the one hand, I called upon the Arab world to fight to cut off the money, to stop this business about glorifying suicide bombers by calling them martyrs, to make sure that the press does encourage violence and killing and murder. And on the other hand, I said Israel has a right to defend herself—I fully understand that—but that it's time for her to withdraw from the occupied territory.

And the reason I feel that way is that I began to worry that the foundations necessary to achieve lasting peace were becoming eroded. In order for Israel to be able to exist, it requires the Arab world's willingness to encourage the conditions so that she can exist. And in order for there to be a Palestinian state, which I support, there needs to be the conditions so that a Palestinian state can exist. And those conditions were becoming eroded, so we acted strong.

I'm sending our very capable Secretary of State, Colin Powell, to the region. He goes there with the mandate of working with the leadership in that part of the world, as well as with the European Union and others, to implement what the U.N. resolution—a recent U.N. Resolution 1042, which lays out the steps necessary to eventually get to a political solution.

Mr. McDonald. But has this come a little late, Mr. President? The Secretary of State has been there before; the Vice President has been in the region; you've had General Zinni there.

The President. I thought my speech came right about the right time.

Mr. McDonald. But for so long now, for many, many days, if not weeks, people could see this situation spiraling rapidly out of control.

The President. Well, the problem is, you can't see the killers. You can't see the suicide bombers. And what we're trying to do is to rally the world to expose them and to expose those who are funding them and to say to Iran, "Stop it," and to Syria, "You must choose."

That's the problem. The invisible part of everything that you thought you could see, you can't see, which is killers who are going into Passover-type celebrations and killing people, killing innocent people. And we've got to stop that, Trevor; we just have to. In order for there to be peace, there must be—there must be a world effort to stop the suicide and the killers. Those people kill for one reason: to stop the peace, to stop a plan from coming into effect.

And this silly notion about somehow our Government hasn't been involved is just silly. I mean, we've had Zinni there, as you said, the Vice President's there. The Secretary of State has been there in the past; he's going back.

Mr. McDonald. So what is different this time?

The President. Well, this time hopefully there is a resolve. Hopefully, there's a resolve to the needless killing and the loss of innocent life that responsible citizens stand up and say, "Enough is enough." That's what I said today, "Enough is enough." And I believe that.

I'll tell you something else that is different. Crown Prince Abdullah of Saudi Arabia laid out his initiative that essentially says the Arab world must recognize Israel's right to exist,

which was a significant change, and we've got to seize on that bold initiative.

Chairman Yasser Arafat of the Palestinian Authority

Mr. McDonald. Will Secretary of State Colin Powell meet Yasser Arafat?

The President. I have no idea yet. I'll tell you what he is going to do. He's going to go work with the leadership to bring people together. My worry is, is that Yasser Arafat can't perform. He's been given plenty of opportunities.

Mr. McDonald. Has he forfeited your trust?

The President. He certainly hasn't earned it. Here's a man who said that he has signed onto Oslo, that he was going to fight off terror. We thought we had a cease-fire arranged. We were that close to a cease-fire, and the next thing we know, there's a suicide bomber that hits. We thought a couple of months ago that we thought we had an agreement. The next thing we know, he's ordered a shipment of arms from Iran.

Now, he's got a long way to go, and it starts with him proving that he can lead. He has let his people down, and there are others in the region who can lead and those who have called upon those others in the region to lead. And Crown Prince Abdullah of Saudi Arabia has taken a leadership role. President Mubarak of Egypt is a leader. King Abdullah of Jordan is a leader.

And so Colin Powell is going to go to the region to gather those leaders up and to start a process hopefully that will lead to lasting peace.

Mr. McDonald. You come pretty close to suggesting that Palestinians should look for another leader.

The President. It's up to them. Far be it from the American President to get to decide who leads what country. I'm just telling you since I've been the President, the man hasn't performed.

Situation in the Middle East

Mr. McDonald. Is there an emerging difference between the United States and Britain about how this should be solved?

The President. No, I don't think so.

Mr. McDonald. Let me tell you, the British Foreign Secretary, Jack Straw, says sending in tanks to Ramallah and to Bethlehem is no response to suicide bombers. You seem to imply that anything should be done to counter terrorism. That's the difference.

The President. No, actually——

Mr. McDonald. And a significant one.

The President. I think I just told you that I asked for Israel to withdraw the cities which she now occupies, so the extent that that's what the Foreign Secretary says, that's fine. The man I talked to is Tony Blair, and I talked to him this morning and informed him about what I was going to say. And I gave him—he was the first foreign leader, by the way, I called to detail the speech that I delivered at 11 a.m. here in the U.S. And he was, one, appreciative of the phone call, it seemed like, and two, applauded what was going to be in the speech. He thought, at least—I hate to put words in somebody else's mouth, but from my perspective——

Mr. McDonald. [*Inaudible*]—that it was about time, did he——

The President. Those are your words, not his.

War on Terrorism

Mr. McDonald. Mr. President, turning to the war on terror, which you declared in the aftermath of the events of September 11th, hasn't it reached something of a stalemate?

The President. Is that a serious question?

Mr. McDonald. I meant it as a serious question.

The President. Well, it's not. Well, no. Of course, we haven't had a stalemate. We're winning. I mean, we just arrested a guy named Abu Zubaydah. We crushed the Taliban; they're no longer in office. We've got schools open for the first time in Afghanistan, where girls are going. For the first time, young girls are going to school. It's been a glorious series of victories, thanks to friends such as the British.

We've got a lot more work to do—don't get me wrong—but I don't think there's any stalemate to it.

Afghanistan

Mr. McDonald. At your request, the British are sending 1,700 more troops to Afghanistan. Is there a danger that they might become sucked into a never-ending commitment?

The President. No. No, it's not, because we've got a plan on how to get out. But first things first. We've got to find those Al Qaida killers and bring them to justice. What the world needs to know is there are still a lot of these murderers on the loose. And that's what they are. And anybody who thinks that we can rehabilitate them just simply doesn't know the nature of the enemy.

Usama bin Laden

Mr. McDonald. And their leaders—on the loose, too.

The President. Well, there's one less on the loose. And we don't know if Mr. bin Laden is on the loose. I don't know if you know, but I hadn't heard from him in the——

Mr. McDonald. I was hoping you would tell us what you think. Is bin Laden alive?

The President. I have no idea. But I'll tell you this: He's not making a lot of noise these days. And maybe he's dug in one of those holes, but there's not a hole deep enough. They're going to get him if he's still alive. And these people are killers, and that's the way we're going to treat them. They're international crooks, and we're going to hunt them down one by one.

I know there's a certain kind of anxiety amongst people in the press, for example, who want this thing over with tomorrow. But that's not the nature of this war. This is a different kind of war. This is a war that requires incredible patience and resolve. And make no mistake about it: I've got the patience and the resolve necessary to win, and so does my country. We're united in this effort, and we're going to do whatever it takes to rout out these terrorist organizations.

President Saddam Hussein of Iraq

Mr. McDonald. You've been very clear, Mr. President, turning to the question of Iraq, that it's part of an axis of evil, as I think you called it. When you meet Tony Blair in the coming days, will you be discussing the possibility of an attack on Iraq?

The President. I'll be talking a lot of things about Iraq with him, starting with the fact that we both recognize that Saddam Hussein is a dangerous man and he harbors and develops weapons of mass destruction—make no mistake about it—that he has got a variety of weapons that can harm mankind and he's not afraid to use them, including on his own people.

And so we'll be discussing that, and we'll be discussing all options. I have no immediate plans to conduct military operations. But as one of my closest friends, personal friends amongst the world leaders, and one of my Nation's closest allies, of course we're going to discuss all options.

Mr. McDonald. I take your point about no immediate plans, but in a sense, have you made up your mind that Iraq must be attacked?

The President. I made up my mind that Saddam needs to go. That's about all I'm willing to share with you.

Mr. McDonald. And you would take action to make sure that happens? And of course, if the logic of the war on terror means anything—which you have explained—then Saddam must go?

The President. That's what I just said. The policy of my Government is that he goes.

Mr. McDonald. People think that Saddam Hussein has had no links with the Al Qaida network, and I'm wondering why you have——

The President. The worst thing that could happen would be to allow a nation like Iraq, run by Saddam Hussein, to develop weapons of mass destruction and then team up with terrorist organizations so they can blackmail the world. I'm not going to let that happen.

Mr. McDonald. So you're going to go after him?

The President. As I told you, the policy of my Government is that Saddam Hussein not be in power.

Mr. McDonald. And how are you going to achieve this, Mr. President?

The President. Wait and see.

Mr. McDonald. Do you think that the international coalition, which you—which an administration once assembled for the Gulf

war, when Kuwait was invaded and the aggressors were undoubtedly the Iraqis—do you think that that international coalition can be assembled again for another attack on Iraq?

The President. I think the coalition can be assembled to demand that Iraq let inspectors back in, like she agreed to do right after the Gulf war. I don't know why the man won't let inspectors in. He's probably got something to hide, don't you think?

And the idea of having this man, who is willing to murder his own people, have weapons of mass destruction—I'm not going to let that happen, and neither will the free world. So I'm confident that we can lead a coalition to pressure Saddam Hussein and to deal with Saddam Hussein.

Mr. McDonald. You say you are confident about this coalition. Certainly, Britain, there are grave misgivings about it. And Tony Blair is under pressure within his own party: 51 percent of the British people think, in an opinion poll, that Saddam Hussein should not be attacked at this time. How are you going to do that? How are you going to accomplish that?

The President. How am I going to change the minds of Britain?

Mr. McDonald. And a number of European countries, too.

The President. Well, we'll just watch and see what happens. I'm going to work closely with our friends and consult with our friends, like I am doing.

One thing Tony Blair does understand is that Saddam Hussein is a dangerous person. And I admire his courage for speaking the truth, and he speaks clearly about the truth. And that's one of the reasons why I like his advice and treasure his counsel.

Mr. McDonald. So what you are calling on Saddam Hussein to do is to let the inspectors back in——

The President. Yes, of course. That's what he said he would do.

Mr. McDonald. And that's the way he can avoid——

The President. But this is not an issue of inspectors. This is an issue of him upholding his word that he would not develop weapons of mass destruction.

Mr. McDonald. So whether he allows the inspectors in or not, he is on the list to be attacked; he's the next target?

The President. You keep trying to put—you're one these clever reporters that keeps trying to put words in my mouth.

Mr. McDonald. Far from that, Mr. President.

The President. Well, I'm afraid you do, sir. But nevertheless, you've had my answer on this subject. And I have no plans to attack on my desk. A policy of my Government is for Saddam not to be in office. It's in the interests of the free world that he not be in office, and it's in the interests of the free world that he not be allowed to develop weapons of mass destruction. And the first thing is he must show us whether or not he has weapons of mass destruction, just like he promised he would do.

Mr. McDonald. And you will have to build the job of the coalition to make sure that this——

The President. We've got a vast coalition for freedom right now. And I talk to leaders all the time, and of course, the subject of Iraq, amongst other subjects, comes up. And I explained to them precisely what I'm explaining to you. And most people understand that history has called us into action. History has given us an opportunity to fight for freedom, and we all will fight for freedom.

Situation in the Middle East

Mr. McDonald. Mr. President, to really put your stamp on a solution in the Middle East—which will help in other ways in fighting this war against terror, as you, yourself, have said—might you be willing to convene a summit to get both sides together and to discuss these problems and to try to resolve these?

The President. Well, we've tried summits in the past, as you may remember. There wasn't one all that long ago where a summit was called and nothing happened, and as a result we had a significant *intifada* in the area.

The only time that's appropriate for a U.S. President to call a summit, when it looks like something can get done. And in the meantime, the Secretary of State is very much involved in the Middle East. And I don't know

if you want to call it a summit, but he's going to have meetings with leaders, attempting to get in place Resolution 1042, which the Security Council has agreed to, which will lead to a political settlement—if all the parties participate.

Mr. McDonald. Mr. President, thank you, sir.

The President. You're welcome. Glad you're here.

Mr. McDonald. Thank you, sir.

[*At this point, the network took a commercial break.*]

Pressures of the Presidency

Mr. McDonald. How do you cope with the pressures——

The President. Well, I'm a man—I believe in prayer. I believe in exercise. I've got a great wife; balance, as they say. Obviously, I'm reminded of what's important in life. We've got a fabulous team. We've got one of the great administrations in American history, and it gives me great comfort to know that the advice I get is honest, straightforward advice from very experienced people.

Aftermath of September 11

Mr. McDonald. Has anything surprised you about the pressures, having these crises—have there been any surprises since you came into the Oval Office?

The President. I think the surprise was how clearly I saw what we needed to do after 9/11. I shouldn't say surprised, I guess. Pleased with how clearly I saw things. I was obviously emotional, but I knew what the country needed to do. And I was really pleased with the way the country responded.

Mr. McDonald. How do you think America has changed after those terrible events of September the 11th?

The President. Well, I think a lot of people are now taking an assessment about what's important in life. I hope moms and dads are saying, "What can I do to be better mother or father?" I know a lot of my fellow Americans have asked, "What can we do to help fight on the war against terror?" And I answer by saying, "Love somebody. Be a good neighbor. Help some kid who just wonders whether the American experience is meant for them, or teach somebody how to read." In other words, there's a lot of small acts that help define the face of America, which really do contribute to standing up against evil.

You've probably heard me speak. I truly believe that this is a fight against evil. These killers are evil people. They've hijacked a religion, and they want to commit murder in order to justify the goals and the ambitions of a few people.

Mr. McDonald. You understand that there are, sort of, different perceptions about this? For example, I heard after you made your latest speech about the crisis in the Middle East, a Palestinian spokesman said, "Yes, but we also live under the terrorism of occupation." Do you understand that?

The President. Sure, people have—look, my job isn't to try to nuance. My job is to tell people what I think. And when I think there's an axis of evil, I say it. I think moral clarity is important, if you believe in freedom. And people can make all kinds of excuses, but there are some truths involved.

And one of the truths is, they're sending suicide killers in—because they hate Israel. That's a truth. And you can justify it any way you want, but nevertheless, the role of the President, as far as I'm concerned, is to stand up and tell the truth, and I did today. I made it as plain as I could. I try to speak as plainly as I can. I know people don't like it when I say there's evil; this is evil versus good. But that's not going to stop me from saying what I think is right.

Situation in the Middle East

Mr. McDonald. Your Palestinian interlocutors will say that they—you have to balance that against the fact that they live, as they say, under this occupation. They also have increasing settlements. And there is a kind of tyranny, they say, they would claim——

The President. Well, in my speech today, I recognized that they need to stop the building of settlements. And it is my Government that laid out the Tenet, and then the Mitchell plans, which both sides agreed to, which will lead to peace. The problem is, they haven't lived up to the agreement. And I'm calling

on the Palestinians to live up to the agreement. And I'm calling on the Israelis to pull out of the occupied territory, the places, the cities they've occupied recently, trying to set up a situation where we can achieve peace. That's what I want. I want peace. And I believe it can happen, otherwise I wouldn't be working so hard on it. I'm an optimist. As you can see, the way we've got the Oval Office here designed, it's open, and it's optimistic, and it's sunny. That's what I feel about life.

It was right in this room where Vladimir Putin came in, and I had a fantastic meeting with him here. Finally, we're getting rid of the cold war, where we hated each other. You know, if you'd been sitting in the fifties, saying, "Can you ever imagine a U.S. President and a Russian President sitting here and talking like friends," you'd have said, "Of course not. How farfetched is that?"

That's what I used as an example today as what is possible in the Middle East. And I think it is possible. All of us are going to have to work to achieve that goal.

Possibility of a Peace Summit

Mr. McDonald. But you're not very much into, sort of, big, set peace summits to do that?

The President. Well, he'd better—the problem is, the American President, when he calls a summit, better get it right.

Mr. McDonald. He puts his personal reputation on the line.

The President. This doesn't have nothing to do with reputation. It has everything to do with the consequences if it fails. It's not the President—see, that's the problem. It's not all about the person. It's about the people who live in the region. If a summit fails, if the President puts—lays it out there and nothing happens, generally the status—the followup is worse than the status quo.

And that's what Presidents must understand. We're dealing with people's lives and expectations. And I think there's a better way to achieve what we want, is peace. Someday that may happen, don't get me wrong. Someday you may say, "I remember when I talked to old Bush, and there he is, sitting there with a big summit." But now is not the time for one. I've got a different strategy.

NOTE: The interview was taped at 3:07 p.m. in the Library at the White House. In his remarks, the President referred to U.S. Special Envoy to the Middle East Gen. Anthony Zinni, USMC (Ret.); President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt; King Abdullah II of Jordan; Prime Minister Tony Blair and Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs Jack Straw of the United Kingdom; Abu Zubaydah and Usama bin Laden, leaders of the Al Qaida terrorist organization; and President Vladimir Putin of Russia. The President also referred to the Tenet plan, the Israeli-Palestinian cease-fire and security plan of June 13, 2001, negotiated by Director of Central Intelligence George J. Tenet; and the Mitchell report, the Report of the Sharm el-Sheikh Fact-Finding Committee, issued April 30, 2001. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this interview. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

The President's Radio Address

April 6, 2002

Good morning. This weekend, Laura and I are hosting the British Prime Minister, Tony Blair, and his family at our ranch in Crawford, Texas. America has no better ally in our war against terrorism than Great Britain.

Six months ago, when the United States launched military strikes against Al Qaida training camps and the Taliban regime in Afghanistan, British forces were right by our side. And the success of Operation Enduring Freedom owes much to the strong support from allies like Great Britain. Yet, the war against terrorism is far from over. It will continue in Afghanistan and beyond.

The world has been brutally reminded these past 2 weeks of the price exacted by terror. Prime Minister Blair and I will spend much of our time this weekend discussing the tragic outbreak of violence in the Middle East. Across the world, people are grieving for Israelis and Palestinians who have lost their lives.

When an 18-year-old Palestinian girl is induced to blow herself up and in the process kills a 17-year-old Israeli girl, the future itself is dying—the future of the Palestinian people and the future of the Israeli people. The United States is strongly committed to finding a just settlement in the Middle East. That

settlement must lead to two states, Israel and Palestine, living side by side in peace and security.

This goal can never be realized through terrorism. It can only be realized through a political process. Arab governments, the Palestinian leadership, and the Palestinian people must recognize that suicide bombings are jeopardizing the very possibility of an independent Palestinian state. This week, I called upon the Palestinian leadership to order an immediate and effective cease-fire and a crackdown on terrorist networks.

Israel, too, faces hard choices. America will always be a committed friend of Israel, and we recognize Israel's right to defend itself against terror. Yet, to lay the foundations of future peace, I've asked Israel to halt incursions into Palestinian-controlled areas and begin withdrawing from those cities it has recently occupied.

Next week, Secretary of State Powell will travel to the Middle East to seek broad international support for these principles and to work towards a cease-fire that will lead to a political settlement. I have no illusions about the difficulty of this mission. Yet, our determination is strong. We'll work closely with nations in the region and with close allies such as Great Britain to end this conflict and to begin an era of peace.

This could be a hopeful moment in the Middle East. A number of Arab leaders have endorsed a proposal that brings them closer than ever to recognizing Israel's right to exist. The United States is on record supporting the legitimate aspirations of the Palestinian people for a Palestinian state. And Israel has recognized the goal of a Palestinian state.

I believe the region could write a new story of democracy and development and trade and join the progress of our times. Yet, progress requires an atmosphere of peace, and peace requires acts of leadership, not acts of terror.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 10:20 a.m. on April 5 at the Bush Ranch in Crawford, TX, for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on April 6. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on April 5 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

The President's News Conference With Prime Minister Tony Blair of the United Kingdom in Crawford, Texas

April 6, 2002

President Bush. Good morning. Laura and I are very honored to have our friends Tony and Cherie Blair and their family visit us here in Crawford. We appreciate the rain that the Prime Minister brought with him—[*laughter*]—and so do the other farmers and ranchers in the area. Mr. Prime Minister, thanks for bringing it.

Prime Minister Blair. My pleasure, George. [*Laughter*]

President Bush. It is always a pleasure for any American President to welcome the Prime Minister of Great Britain, because ours is a special and unique relationship. And our relationship is strong because of my respect for the Prime Minister. I appreciate his advice. I appreciate his counsel, and I appreciate his friendship.

This morning I conveyed to the Prime Minister the condolences of the American people for the recent passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother. This remarkable woman is warmly remembered on both sides of the Atlantic for her grace and her strength and particularly for her inspiration she provided during the darkest days of World War II.

Today, the bond between our peoples that she symbolized is stronger than ever. Our nations share more than just a common language and a common history. We also share common interests and a common perspective on the important challenges of our times.

No nation has been stronger in fighting global terrorism than Great Britain. I'm extremely grateful for the Prime Minister's courageous leadership since September the 11th. And the world is grateful for all that Great Britain has contributed in the war against terror, everything from special forces to ground forces to naval forces to peacekeepers.

The Prime Minister and I both understand that defeating global terror requires a broad based, long-term strategy. We understand the importance of denying terrorists weapons of mass destruction. And we understand the importance of adapting NATO to meet new threats, even as NATO prepares to take on new members and forges a new relationship with Russia.

The Prime Minister and I also agree that, even as we work to make the world safer, we must also work to make the world better. Our countries will continue to work closely to bring greater hope and opportunity to developing nations.

We also had extensive conversations about the situation in the Middle East. Both our nations are strongly committed to finding a just settlement. Both of us agree on the fundamental elements that a just settlement must include. We share a vision of two states, Israel and Palestine, living side by side in peace and in security.

We agree that this vision will never be realized through terrorism and that it can only be realized through a political process. We agree that the Palestinian leadership must order an immediate and effective cease-fire and crackdown on terrorist networks. And we agree that Israel should halt incursions in the Palestinian-controlled areas and begin to withdraw without delay from those cities it has recently occupied.

The Prime Minister and I agree to work closely in the weeks and months ahead on these difficult issues. We have a common reading of history. We understand that each of our nations stands taller when we stand together. And that's why our nations will continue to stand together against freedom's enemies. And that's why we'll continue to work together, for not only the good of our own people but for good of peace in the world.

Mr. Prime Minister.

Prime Minister Blair. Thank you, Mr. President. First of all, if I could begin by thanking you and the First Lady for their very kind and gracious welcome that you have given to myself and my family, and also thank the people of Crawford and McClellan County for their kind welcome, too. And it's a real pleasure to be with you here.

And as you might expect, we've had very detailed discussions covering all the issues, from the topics of the moment through to issues like trade and bilateral issues between us. Of course, much of our discussion has focused on the situation in the Middle East. And I agree entirely with what the President said just a moment or two ago, not just in relation to what must happen in the immediate term but also as to the only basis upon which there will be and can be a viable and lasting peace there, that is a state of Israel, secure in its own borders, recognized by the entirety of the Arab world, and also a viable Palestinian state where people can live side by side with each other.

We discussed, of course, the issues of international terrorism and weapons of mass destruction. I would like to pay a particular tribute to the President for his courage and for his leadership in the aftermath of the 11th of September. And I think that it is worth reflecting that over these past few months, although very much still remains to be done, we have accomplished, nonetheless, a very great deal in Afghanistan and in the pursuit of those responsible for that terrible event on the 11th of September. And we will continue to work in any way we can in order to make sure that this scourge of international terrorism is defeated.

We also agreed and made it very clear, as well, that the issue of weapons of mass destruction cannot be ducked. It is a threat. It is a danger to our world, and we must heed that threat and act to prevent it being realized.

In addition, I was grateful for the President's kind words about the contribution Britain has made in Afghanistan. We made that willingly, because we believe it is important not just that we root out the last remnants of the Al Qaida terrorist network in Afghanistan but also that we help that country to go from being a failed state, failing its region and its people, to a state that offers some hope of stability and prosperity for the future.

And finally, I would like to say a special thank you to the President for his words on Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother—that will be deeply appreciated by people of Britain. And as you may know, there have been

many Americans as well as British people paying their respects to the Queen Mother as she lies in state. Ours is, indeed, a very special and unique relationship between Britain and the United States of America. And I have no doubt at all that under the leadership of President Bush, that relationship will strengthen still further. And for that, Britain is glad—I know that the United States is—but I believe it is good for the wider world, too.

President Bush. We have now agreed to take three questions apiece. We'll start with Ron Fournier [Associated Press], a fine man who works for AP—got a couple of kids, cares deeply about the future. [*Laughter*]

Prime Minister Blair. I'm just thinking of how I introduce mine, now. [*Laughter*]

Q. Flattery will get you nowhere, sir.

President Bush. I've noticed. [*Laughter*]

Israeli Incursions Into Palestinian Territories

Q. Israel is moving deeper into Palestinian territories, and there are reports today that she has launched attacks on southern Lebanon. Have you failed, Mr. President, to convince Prime Minister Sharon to pull back his troops? And why did you wait so long to demand the withdrawal and only today adding the caveat, "without delay"?

President Bush. My administration's—my words to Israel are the same today as they were a couple of days ago: Withdraw without delay. I made the decision to give the speech when I did because I was concerned about the ability for those of us who were interested in a long-term solution to take hold. I was worried about the balance being tipped to the point where we weren't able to achieve a long-lasting peace.

I gave the speech at the right time. And I expect Israel to heed my advice, and I expect for the Palestinians to reject terror in the Arab world. As Israel steps back, we expect the Arab world to step up and lead—to lead against terror, to get into an immediate cease-fire, begin the implementation of U.N. Resolution 1042.

Q. Can I follow up, please?

President Bush. No. Nice try.

Prime Minister Blair. Andy Meyer, who works for the BBC, and really nothing else need be said. [*Laughter*] He's got three children.

Q. Can I just follow up from that and ask the President and the Prime Minister, what happens now if the Israelis continue to ignore what you've been asking them to do?

President Bush. I don't expect them to ignore. I expect them to heed the call, heed the call from their friends the United States, and heed the call from their friends the Great—the people of Great Britain and the leadership of Great Britain.

Q. But if they don't?

President Bush. Well, that's—as I told you, I think they will heed the call.

Prime Minister Blair. I think that most people in Israel will realize that they don't have two greater friends in the world than the United States of America or Britain. And we both understand, as well, the appalling nature of the acts of terrorism that they have been subject to. We understand that. But we are also trying to help secure a way out of the present impasse, so that we can get into a political process where some of these underlying issues can be resolved satisfactory for the long term, because the bloodshed and the carnage and innocent people dying, in the end, is not a solution to this issue. So I believe that Israel will heed the words of President Bush and will do so knowing that he speaks as a friend to Israel.

President Saddam Hussein of Iraq

Q. Mr. President.

President Bush. I don't know you well enough, Adam [Adam Entous, Reuters] to be able to sing your praises. [*Laughter*]

Q. Thank you. Mr. President, you have yet to build an international coalition for military action against Iraq. Has the violence in the Middle East thwarted your efforts? And Prime Minister Blair, has Bush convinced you on the need for a military action against Iraq?

President Bush. Adam, the Prime Minister and I, of course, talked about Iraq. We both recognize the danger of a man who's willing to kill his own people harboring and developing weapons of mass destruction. This guy, Saddam Hussein, is a leader who gasses his own people, goes after people in his own neighborhood with weapons of—

chemical weapons. He's a man who obviously has something to hide.

He told the world that he would show us that he would not develop weapons of mass destruction, and yet, over the past decade, he has refused to do so. And the Prime Minister and I both agree that he needs to prove that he isn't developing weapons of mass destruction.

I explained to the Prime Minister that the policy of my Government is the removal of Saddam and that all options are on the table.

Prime Minister Blair. I can say that any sensible person looking at the position of Saddam Hussein and asking the question, would the region, the world, and not least the ordinary Iraqi people be better off without the regime of Saddam Hussein, the only answer anyone could give to that question would be, yes.

Now, how we approach this, this is a matter for discussion. This is a matter for considering all the options. But a situation where he continues to be in breach of all the United Nations resolutions, refusing to allow us to assess, as the international community have demanded, whether and how he is developing these weapons of mass destruction—doing nothing in those circumstances is not an option, so we consider all the options available.

But the President is right to draw attention to the threat of weapons of mass destruction. That threat is real. How we deal with it; that's a matter we discuss. But that the threat exists and we have to deal with it, that seems, to me, a matter of plain common sense.

Q. Prime Minister, we've heard the President say what his policy is directly about Saddam Hussein, which is to remove him. That is the policy of the American administration. Can I ask you whether that is now the policy of the British Government? And can I ask you both, if it is now your policy to target Saddam Hussein, what has happened to the doctrine of not targeting heads of states and leaving countries to decide who their leaders should be, which is one of the principles which applied during the Gulf war?

Prime Minister Blair. Well, you know it has always been our policy that Iraq would be a better place without Saddam Hussein. I don't think anyone can be in any doubt about that, for all the reasons I gave earlier, and—you know, reasons to do with weapons of mass destruction, also to do with the appalling brutality and repression of his own people. But how we now proceed in this situation, how we make sure that this threat that is posed by weapons of mass destruction is dealt with, that is a matter that is open. And when the time comes for taking those decisions, we will tell people about those decisions.

But you cannot have a situation in which he carries on being in breach of the U.N. resolutions and refusing to allow us the capability of assessing how that weapons-of-mass-destruction capability is being advanced, even though the international community has made it absolutely clear that he should do so. Now, as I say, how we then proceed from there, that is a matter that is open for us.

President Bush. Maybe I should be a little less direct and be a little more nuanced, and say we support regime change.

Q. That's a change though, isn't it, a change in policy?

President Bush. No, it's really not. Regime change was the policy of my predecessor as well.

Q. And your father?

President Bush. You know, I can't remember that far back. [*Laughter*] It's certainly the policy of my administration. I think "regime change" sounds a lot more civil, doesn't it? The world would be better off without him. Let me put it that way, though. And so will the future.

See, the worst thing that can happen is to allow this man to abrogate his promise and hook up with a terrorist network. And then all of a sudden you've got one of these shadowy terrorist networks that have got an arsenal at their disposal, which could create a situation in which nations down the road get blackmailed. We can't let it happen; we just can't let it happen. And obviously, the Prime Minister is somebody who understands this clearly, and that's why I appreciate dealing with him on the issue. And we've got close consultations going on, and we talk about it all the time. And he's got very good advice on the subject, and I appreciate that.

Chairman Yasser Arafat of the Palestinian Authority

Q. Thank you, Mr. President. You say that in the war against terrorism, people are either with us or against us. Whose side is Chairman Arafat on, and do you think the world would be a better place without him?

President Bush. I think Chairman Arafat—I was asked on British TV the other day, have I lost trust in Chairman Arafat? And I said, "Well, he never earned my trust, because he hasn't performed."

Somebody told me there's a story floating around that somehow I am blaming the Clinton administration for what's going on in the Middle East right now. Let's make this very clear, that in my speech I said that Mr. Arafat has not lived up to the promises he made at Oslo and elsewhere to fight off terror. He hasn't performed. I appreciate what President Clinton tried to do. He tried to bring peace to the Middle East. I am going to try to bring peace to the Middle East.

But in order to earn my trust, somebody must keep their word. And Chairman Arafat has not kept his word. He said he would fight off terror. He hasn't. He needs to speak clearly, in Arabic, to the people of that region and condemn terrorist activities. At the very minimum, he ought to at least say something.

And you know, there's all kinds of excuses. But in order to achieve lasting peace, both sides must make constructive steps, and we're prepared to help and will help. That's why the Secretary of State is going to the region. But Chairman Arafat has failed in his leadership, and he has let the people down. He had opportunity after opportunity to be a leader, and he hasn't led. And I'm disappointed.

President Saddam Hussein of Iraq

Q. Present company doubtless excepted, one could think of quite a lot of world leaders the world might be better off without.

President Bush. Thank you for the exception.

Q. And I'm not sure necessarily whether the Prime Minister would agree with you on Yasser Arafat. But can I ask you, I think what Europeans have a problem with about expanding any war on terror to Iraq is linkage. They can see a linkage between Al Qaida and Afghanistan. They can't see a direct linkage to Saddam Hussein.

Would you accept that there isn't a direct linkage and how, therefore——

President Bush. First of all, I wouldn't accept that. But can't they see linkage between somebody who's willing to murder his own people and the danger of him possessing weapons of mass destruction, which he said he would not develop? I see the linkage between somebody who is willing to go into his own neighborhood and use chemical weapons in order to keep himself in power and at the same time develop a weapon that could be aimed at Europe, aimed at Israel, aimed anywhere, in order to affect foreign policy through his—you know, I can't imagine people not seeing the threat and not holding Saddam Hussein accountable for what he said he would do, and we're going to do that.

History has called us into action. The thing I admire about this Prime Minister is, he doesn't need a poll or a focus group to convince him the difference between right and wrong. And it's refreshing to see leaders speak with moral clarity when it comes to the defense of freedom.

I intend to speak with clarity when it comes to freedom, and I know Prime Minister Tony Blair does as well. And we will hold Saddam Hussein accountable for broken promises. And that's what a lot of our discussion over there on Prairie Chapel Ranch has been about. And other than eating lunch, which we're fixing to go do, we're going to continue our discussions.

Prime Minister Blair. You talked about no linkage there. There is a reason why United Nations resolutions were passed, nine of them, calling upon him to stop developing weapons of mass destruction. I mean, there is a reason why weapons inspectors went in there, and that is because we know he has been developing these weapons.

We know that those weapons constitute a threat. Three days after the 11th of September when I made my first statement to the House of Commons in Britain, I specifically said then this issue of weapons of mass destruction has got to be dealt with. And the reason for that is that what happened on the 11th of September was a call to us to make

sure that we didn't repeat the mistake of allowing groups to develop destructive capability and hope that, at some point in time, they weren't going to use it. They develop that destructive capability for a reason.

Now, we've made it very clear to you how we then proceed and how we deal with this—all the options are open. And I think after the 11th of September, this President showed that he proceeds in a calm and a measured and a sensible but in a firm way. Now, that is precisely what we need in this situation too.

And as I say to you, never forget he knows perfectly well what the international community has demanded of him over these past years, and he's never done it.

President Bush. Thank you all.

Prime Minister Blair. Thank you.

NOTE: The President's news conference began at 11 a.m. in the gymnasium at Crawford High School. In his remarks, he referred to Cherie Blair, wife of Prime Minister Blair, their daughter Kathryn, and Mrs. Blair's mother, Gale Booth. A reporter referred to Prime Minister Ariel Sharon of Israel.

Remarks During a Tour of the Citizens Police Academy in Knoxville, Tennessee

April 8, 2002

Thanks, I'm honored to be here. I'm here to explain to the Nation the importance of citizens becoming involved with preparedness in their communities. And I want to thank the chief and the mayor, and thank you, Captain, for providing an outlet for good citizens who love their country, and who generally have asked the question, "What can I do to make my community a better place?"

The reason we've come to Knoxville is because this is a model program. And I want other people to see what is possible. I also want them to see the good citizens in action, like yourselves. I want to thank you—I'm a grateful President, for a grateful nation, for helping your community.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:43 a.m. in Training Room A of the Knoxville Police Department Training Facility. In his remarks, he referred to Mayor Victor H. Ashe of Knoxville; and Chief of Police Phil E. Keith and Captain Don Green of the Knoxville Police Department. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Remarks to Reporters Following a Tour of the Citizens Police Academy in Knoxville

April 8, 2002

Situation in the Middle East

Let me say one thing before I leave. First of all, I meant what I said to the Prime Minister of Israel. I expect there to be withdrawal without delay. And I also meant what I said to the Arab world, that in order for there to be peace, nations must stand up, leaders must stand up and condemn terrorism, terrorist activity.

There is a mutual responsibility to achieve peace, and it's going to require leadership on both sides. And the United States is firmly committed to achieving peace and is firmly committed—I am firmly committed to what I expect from both parties.

I repeat, I meant what I said about withdrawal without delay, and I mean what I say when I call upon the Arab world to strongly condemn and act against terrorist activity.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:06 p.m. at the Knoxville Police Department Training Facility. In his remarks, he referred to Prime Minister Ariel Sharon of Israel.

Remarks on the Citizens Corps in Knoxville

April 8, 2002

Thank you all so very much. I'm sure glad to be back in Knoxville, Tennessee. I want to thank you for your warm welcome. I want to thank you for your hospitality. And I want to thank you all for coming today to give me a chance to talk about some—to talk about the future of this great country and why I'm optimistic about the future of this great country and why I'm so proud to be an American, to be the President of this great country.

It makes sense to come to the Volunteer State to talk about the need for our citizens to help each other. I can understand why the

foes of the University of Tennessee dread hearing "Rocky Top." [*Laughter*] I mean, it kind of fired me up, standing behind the—[*applause*]. It reminds me of that great volunteer spirit. Of course, in Texas, we really appreciate those Tennessee volunteers coming down to help us out.

And I appreciate the Citizens Police Academy I went to today. It shows the best of your city. You have a great mayor working with a really fine police chief, who are pooling the resources, who are providing an avenue, an outlet for people who care about your community, a place for them to come and learn the skills necessary to help protect the good people of Knoxville, should an emergency arise.

I've come to highlight what works, so others around the country, if they're interested——

[*At this point, there was a disturbance in the audience.*]

——if your're interested in doing what is right—to encourage your citizens to become involved. And so I want to thank the city of Knoxville, Tennessee, for showing Americans—for showing Americans how best to help their communities. [*Applause*] Thank you all.

I also want to thank the mayors and county officials from cities from around our country. I had the honor of flying over from Washington today with the fine Mayor of Washington, DC, my friend Tony Williams. I also was with Mayor Jim Hahn from Los Angeles and others here, all of whom are utilizing their positions to encourage our citizens to become more involved in our communities. And I want to thank you all so very much for coming. We've got some mayors from Texas, small towns, large towns, Republicans, Democrats, all of whom care deeply about our country.

I want to thank so very much the members of the Tennessee congressional delegation for being here as well. You've sent a fine group of folks to Washington. I enjoy working with them. I appreciate their service to the country, and I want to thank you all for coming.

I want to remind our fellow citizens that we have a volunteer military, that we've asked our citizens to volunteer to protect our country. And my attitude is, so long as we have a soldier in harm's way, they deserve the best pay, the best support, the best equipment possible. I have submitted a budget to the United States Congress that reflects the nature of the conflict with which we're faced. I've asked for the largest increase in defense spending in 20 years, not only because it will fulfill our commitment to support our troops but because it recognizes that this country is in our war for the long pull, that we're interested in defending freedom no matter what the cost.

You know, I can't imagine what went through the minds of those who felt like they could attack America. I can't imagine. They must have thought we were so materialistic and so self-absorbed and so weak that all we would do was file a lawsuit. [*Laughter*] They found out we're a different type of nation than they thought. They found out this Nation will do what it takes to defend that which we hold dear, and what we hold dear is freedom.

And it's important for the young, in particular, but all Americans to understand that we seek—we don't seek revenge; we seek justice. It's hard for some to believe, but there are people in this world who hate what America stands for. They hate the fact that we believe people should worship freely. They hate the fact that we believe there ought to be honest political discourse. They hate the fact that we believe in human rights and the dignity and worth of each individual. These people hate America. They are cold-blooded killers, and the United States will hunt them down one by one and bring them to justice.

And thanks to our United States military and thanks to a coalition we put together—and thanks to the coalition we have put together, we have freed the people of Afghanistan from one of the most repressive regimes in the history of mankind. Not only are we steadfast in our desire to defend that which we believe; we also are willing to commit resources to free a nation. Several weeks ago, young girls went to school for the first time in Afghanistan.

I'm proud of the United States of America. I'm proud of our people. I'm proud of our resolve. I'm proud of the unity. I'm proud of the patience of the American people. The American people know what I know, that we have been called into action, that history has

given us a chance to lead, that history understands—that we now understand that history's call is to lead our vast coalition against terrorists and to defend freedom, no matter what the cost. And my fellow Americans, I can assure you so long as I'm the President, I will lead this world's coalition to defend our freedoms, no matter what the cost.

I've heard talk about the budget and people saying, "Well, the budget is too big for defense." Listen, the price of freedom is high. I understand that. But it's not too high, as far as I'm concerned. This Nation can show the world what we stand for, and we can show future generations what we're made out of.

Now, it's important for us to remain strong, and it's important for us to do what we say we're going to do in the world. I said loud and clear, "Either you are with us, or you're against us." And I also said, "If you're going to harbor a terrorist or feed a terrorist or think you can hide a terrorist, you're just as guilty as the ones who came and murdered innocent Americans, and we're going to hold you accountable."

And we're making good progress. We're making good progress. We're hunting them down, and that's what has to happen. And we're doing it in a way that sometimes doesn't make it in the newspapers. I understand that. You know—and sometimes it doesn't have all the sensationalism that some on the TVs would like to see. But you've just got to know that your Government is steady and deliberate and patient. There is no cave deep enough to hide from the arm of justice of the United States of America.

And while I recognize that the best way to secure our homeland is to find the enemy wherever they hide, there's some stuff we need to do at home too. And we're doing it. And that is to have a homeland security strategy that recognizes the importance of first-responders. I want to thank the police and fire officers and EMS teams not only in Knoxville but around the country for your sacrifice on behalf of the citizens of your community.

We've got a strategy that makes sure our border security works better, a strategy that responds to any bioterrorism-type attack. We're doing a good job of buttoning up our country. We're doing a much better job of communicating between law enforcement agencies. You see, you've got to know that anytime we get a hint, a scintilla of evidence that somebody might be thinking about doing something to America, we're responding. We're sharing information. We're on alert, and we're working overtime. And we're working diligently to make sure the enemy doesn't hit us again.

But there's some things that citizens can do as well. People oftentimes ask me, "What can I do to help?" Well, let me give you some suggestions today. One way to help is to volunteer. And I said to the fellow citizens, give 4,000 hours of volunteer service for the rest of your life. If you want to help America, step up and serve your community. And there are ways to do that. There are ways to do so on the forefront of the war—on the strategy to make sure America is better prepared.

I have created what's called USA Freedom Corps. It's a chance for citizens from all walks of life to serve, to serve by serving in AmeriCorps, where you can help teach—where you can help people realize that the American experience is meant for us all. Or you can teach. Or Senior Corps—senior citizens can serve in the Senior Corps programs. Or the Peace Corps—we've had thousands of people now call in to say they want to serve America's interest in the Peace Corps by helping to spread America's values. There are ways to serve.

Today I'm talking about the Citizens Corps. It's an opportunity to work with local officials to make the homeland security more prepared. Interestingly enough, when I made the call for people to serve, we had over a million hits on the Web site for the Citizens Corps, and 25,000 Americans stepped up and said, "We want to help. We want to apply for Citizens Corps applications."

And here—there are ways to help. We need volunteers who are trained in emergency preparedness and response to participate in what we call Community Emergency Response Team programs. They first started in Los Angeles, Mayor Hahn was telling me. All the cities represented here on this stage have now got CERT programs. It gives people a chance to be a part of an emergency-

response mechanism, both urban and rural, in America. If you're interested in helping, dial up the phone and the Web site I'm about to give you, so that you can be a part of emergency preparedness in your communities.

We need volunteers on the Neighborhood Watch programs. Neighborhood Watch—I hope you're familiar with it—is a way for communities to be—citizens to become involved with making each neighborhood more secure. Neighborhood Watch is a structure which already exists. We want to expand it in America. We want more folks to be a part of the Neighborhood Watch program, to make our communities more prepared.

Operation—what's called—we call it terrorism information program; it's a tip program. This is a program where truckers can report anything that might be suspicious to local authorities. One of the most innovative tip programs in the country took place in Maine. Governor King, in working with the local FBI, signed up a lot of lobstermen, so when they're out there pulling their pots to get the lobsters, if they see something suspicious taking place along the Maine coast, that they share information with the local jurisdictions, local law enforcement jurisdictions. If people see anything suspicious, utility workers, you ought to report it. This is a way to organize that which already happens in our communities on a daily basis and a way to make the homeland more secure and more prepared.

We've got what's called the VIP program, VIPS, and that's Volunteers in Police. And that's what we've talked about today here in Knoxville. I don't know if you know this or not, but I would say the vast majority of police departments need volunteer labor to help make their departments function. The chief here in Knoxville was telling me that he could not live without the fact that we've got a lot of volunteers right from your community, probably your neighbors, that go down there on a daily basis, to help make the police department function more smoothly. This is a good way to help in your community, if you're interested in helping.

And then we have what's called the Medical Reserve Corps. This is a chance for active and retired doctors and nurses to lend a hand in preparing any community for an emergency. It makes a lot of sense to say to a retired doc or a retired nurse, "You know, you've still got your skills. You still care about people. Here's a good way for you to serve the community." We need this participation from our citizenry. It's not only good for each community; it's good for the citizens to know that they're helping to serve a great nation by serving their community.

And so for those of you out there who are interested in participating, I want you to call up this number, 1–877–USA–CORPS*, or to dial up on the Internet, www.citizencorps.gov. This is a way where you can help America. The Government will help as well. I put in my budget $203 million to help on the Citizen Corps programs, 50 of which will be immediate, through the supplemental.

In other words, we're willing to fund. But what we can't do is, we can't hire people. You've got to step up in the Citizen Corps. The money is meant to enable. You're meant to provide the manpower. So when a fellow American says, "What can I do to help? What can I do to help America be prepared better," here's a way you can help and make a huge difference in the communities in which you live.

And there's another way to help too. It's by loving a neighbor like you'd like to be loved yourself. You've probably got a sense of my strong feelings about the enemy. I believe they're evil. The best way to fight evil is to do some good. Let me qualify that—the best way to fight evil at home is to do some good. The best way to fight them abroad is to unleash the military.

It is so important for citizens in this country to put a face on America for the world to see, the true face. And that's by loving somebody, and that's by caring for somebody who needs a hand. You know, it doesn't take much to help define the true face of America; it really doesn't. It can mean just walking across the street to a shut-in, and saying, "I care for you. Is there anything I can do to make your day brighter?" It certainly means mentoring a child, putting your arm around a child, and say, "You know, America is

*White House correction.

meant for you, and I love you." It means organizing a program in your church or your synagogue or your mosque, to help hear the universal call of loving somebody just like you'd like to be loved yourself.

There are pockets of despair in America, and we need people of love to go into those pockets, people of faith to go into those pockets of despair, to help this country realize its potential. If you want to join in the war against terror, you can join the Citizen Corps, or you can act out of compassion and concern to help make somebody's life brighter. It is the gathering momentum of millions of acts of kindness and decency and compassion which show the world the true face of America. Not only are we strong militarily, but we've got great hearts and great compassion about our fellow human—men and women.

And therefore, my fellow Americans, if you want to join us, if you want to make the country stronger, participate; help somebody in need. You know, I truly believe that out of this evil is going to come incredible good. I believe that by remaining strong in the face of terror, that we can lead the world to peace. I believe there's going to be some problems in the world that can be solved with American strength and American leadership and a coalition that refuses to bend when it comes to the defense of terror. And out of evil will come some incredible good in America, some incredible good.

Many of you know what I'm talking about when I say that families have taken a good look at what's important in their life. Moms and dads have now said that they're going to love their children with all their heart and all their soul. They're going to focus their love and attention on being the best parent they can possibly be, as we've taken a good look at the value systems that are important for our future.

You know, Flight 93 told me a lot about America. Here we were in the midst of this beginning of the new war of the 21st century, and some men and women on a flight decided that they needed to save others. They were on cell phones with their loved ones. They told them they loved them. They said a prayer. They said, "Let's roll," and they saved lives on the ground. It is that spirit that is alive and well in America, and it's that spirit that makes me so optimistic about the future of this great country.

I want to thank you all so very much for coming. I want to thank you for your strong support for our country. I want to thank you for your patience. I want to thank you for your understanding about what lies ahead for the country. But most of all, I want to thank you for working hard to make your neighborhood and your community the best place it can possibly be for each one of us who's lucky enough to call themselves an American.

And I want you to know, I can't tell you what an honor it is to be the President of the greatest land on the face of the Earth. God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:30 p.m. at the Knoxville Civic Coliseum. In his remarks, he referred to Mayor Victor H. Ashe of Knoxville; Mayor Anthony A. Williams of Washington, DC; Mayor James K. Hahn of Los Angeles, CA; Governor Angus S. King, Jr., of Maine; and Phil E. Keith, chief of police, Knoxville Police Department.

Remarks on the Proposed "Terrorism Risk Protection Act"

April 8, 2002

Thank you very much. Ed, thank you very much. I didn't realize you were so eloquent. [*Laughter*] But I know you're a good leader, and I know you care deeply about the people you represent, and so does Jimmy Hoffa and Joe Hunt, and so do the people—the employers here. I want to thank you all for coming to help me talk about this important issue facing the country, and that is how to make sure people stay working. That's what we're talking about.

You know, the enemy hit us pretty hard on September the 11th. I just came in from Tennessee, where I was talking about one way to respond to the attacks is for people to volunteer in their communities and help make their neighborhoods a better place. I told them, I said, they must have not—they miscalculated. They hit us and thought we were so weak that all we would do is probably file a lawsuit. [*Laughter*]

But they found out that we're thinking a little differently in America and that, when it comes to our freedom, we will do what it takes to defend freedom. And I want to remind you all that this is a long struggle that's going to take a while, that there are Al Qaida killers still on the loose. There are people who hate America. They hate what we stand for. They hate the fact that Democrats and Republicans both love our country equally. They hate the idea that we worship freely. They hate the concept that we debate issues in open. They hate freedom. They just hate it, and they are going to try to hurt us. They are.

And the best way to secure the homeland is to find them one by one, and we are. That's exactly what we're going to do. And the—we've unleashed the proud United States military, and the men and women who wear our uniform are really doing us proud.

I also want you to know that—it's just important to know that we don't seek revenge; we seek justice. That's what we're doing. And we're not conquerors, but we're liberators. I am really proud of our Nation. I'm proud of the fact that young girls went to school for the first time in Afghanistan. That really makes me feel really good about what we're doing. I'm proud about the fact that we're not leaving the country behind, that not only have we liberated people from the clutches of this barbaric regime but we're staying around to help them with their security and help them to develop into a nation that can protect herself and a nation that will be a good neighbor in an important part of the world.

We have made some pretty good progress in a quick period of time. But you've got to remember we live in a world in which sometimes, in all due respect, the media expects things to end quickly. This isn't going to end quickly. So long as there is terrorists, we need to find them. So long as there is nations which develop weapons of mass destruction and therefore try to hold the U.S. or our friends and allies hostage through blackmail, we're going to have to deal with it—just going to have to deal with it. History has called us into action, and I'm not going to let our children and grandchildren down. And I know you're not, either.

In terms of our economy, no question that the attacks of September the 11th hurt our economy. I mean, it affected employment in big ways. Many of you know that. I see Bill Marriott; his business was affected, deeply affected. And thanks to some focused efforts, things are improving. But as far as I'm concerned, the notion about where we stand in terms of our economy really depends upon whether or not people are able to find work and whether or not they think they're going to have work tomorrow. That's how I judge whether or not we're healthy. If someone is looking for work and can't find work, that means we're not healthy. If someone is working and they're worried about whether they're going to be working tomorrow, that means we're not healthy, as far as I'm concerned.

And therefore, public policy must do everything we can to create an environment in which jobs are steady and growing. I thought tax relief was very important to make sure that the environment was such that people could find work.

I know energy policy is very important, and we spent a great deal of time with Jimmy and Ed talking about how to get a good energy bill out of the Congress. It's an energy bill, by the way, that is needed more than ever, particularly given the fact that there's been some threats recently by Saddam Hussein that he's going to try to cut off energy supply to affect the United States. I mean, what more reason do we need than to have good energy policy in the United States to diversify away from somebody like him?

And we need to do something on terrorism insurance as well. This is an issue that I don't think a lot of Americans understand very well, and we're going to use this opportunity to explain it. I'm going to do my best to explain it. Tom Ridge and Larry Lindsey will follow up.

It's an issue because it is a jobs issue. If people can't buy insurance on a construction project, they're not going to build the project. And if they don't build the project, somebody's not working. That's the simplest way I can describe the issue at hand.

And we have a lack of insurance coverage now as a result of the enemy attack. I don't think they actually sat down and said, "Gosh,

if we attack, we'll affect the insurance industry of America." I think that was an unintended consequence of theirs, but nevertheless, it was a consequence.

And we in Washington must deal with it and must deal with it in a hurry, because the pace of new construction is dropping dramatically in America. Banks and investors and others will not finance construction projects that do not have terrorism insurance. In order to build a project, in order to employ people, you've got to borrow money, and you can't borrow money unless there's adequate terrorism insurance. And that's not being provided today.

Nonresidential construction is down 3 percent compared to January of 2002, and down 17 percent compared to February of 2001. That's an issue that the Congress must deal with. If people who want to work can't find work, something is wrong with the economy. They should not be fooled by the statistics. If people who are working a construction job are uncertain as to whether or not there will be a job for them tomorrow, that is a problem, and we need to deal with it. And when you see construction—nonresidential construction permitting down to the extent to which it is, it is a problem. And I expect the Congress to act.

The Hyatt Corporation has acquired a new site for a 1.5 million square foot office building in downtown Chicago. That ought to be encouraging news. It ought to be encouraging news for my friend the mayor. It ought to be encouraging news for people who wear the hardhat and work, the ironworkers and the construction workers. But they've got a problem finding terrorism coverage, and so they're not getting financing for the project. Somebody wants to build it; they can't get the money to do it because the insurance isn't available. This project is valued at $400 million, will lead to the creation of 2,500 jobs, if the Hyatt Corporation could get insurance.

There are other examples as well. A $2 billion resort in Nevada—you've got some influence out there, Jimmy—[*laughter*]—could provide 16,000 jobs, is on hold because they can't get insurance for terrorism. Imagine that. You know, you've got the chance to employ 16,000 people, but because something hasn't happened in the United States Congress, it's not going forward. And that's not right.

We're worried about charities that may be forced to cut back on services to the needy because of the high cost of insurance. Pension funds for teachers and other workers that hold real estate assets may experience lower rates of return because of higher terrorism insurance costs. That affects someone's retirement system. The transportation industry will face strains from the lack of affordable terrorism insurance.

Secondly, while we're doing everything we can to stop terrorist attacks, the economy must be prepared to handle an attack if they do occur. We spend a lot of time here in Washington sniffing down every lead, looking for every opportunity to run down a clue as to—somebody might be trying to get us. And I am confident—I know we're doing everything we can, but I can't predict with 100 percent accuracy whether or not another attack won't occur.

And therefore, we'd better find terrorism insurance because without it, it would be a catastrophic problem if there is another attack. It would make it really hard for our economy to recover a second time if there's an attack, without adequate terrorism insurance. I mean, on the one hand we're talking about jobs, and on the other hand we're talking about recovery if there's an attack.

Now, we passed a bill in the House that basically put the Federal Government as a stopgap for terrorism insurance. Above a certain level of claim, the Federal Government would step in. And that's important. And now it's in the Senate, and the Senate needs to respond and act. The Senate needs to get this bill done quickly. All they've got to do is talk to people in this room, Republicans and Democrats alike. This isn't a bill that says, gosh, if it passes, it'll help somebody's political party. That's not what this is all about. This is a bill that helps workers and helps strengthen our economy.

This is an important piece of legislation. I've heard some talk in Capitol Hill that the facts don't justify this type of legislation, the facts don't justify the Federal Government stepping in as a stopgap. They're not looking at the right set of facts, as far as I'm concerned. And so I expect, for the good of our

economy and for the good of the country, that the Senate act.

And I want to thank you all for your interest in this bill, and I ask you to contact Members of the United States Senate. We believe there is bipartisan support for this bill. We believe that if it ever makes it to the floor, it passes. And I know that we can work with the House version, if it's somewhat different, to get something done quickly.

This is good for workers. This is good for America. This is a way to really handle a tough situation and to make our country stronger.

Now, the strength of the country, it really is in the hearts and souls of our people. People say to me, "Are you an optimistic fellow about the future of America?" The answer is, absolutely. Absolutely. I believe out of this evil that faced us will come some incredible good. I truly do. I believe that we'll achieve peace. If we're firm and tough and stand strong against terror, continue to lead a coalition of freedom-loving nations, that we'll achieve peace in areas where people don't think we can achieve peace. I truly believe that. I know some parts of the world look like they'll never be peaceful, but I don't believe that.

And I know at home, if we make the right moves, people are going to find work. But more importantly, I know this country is going to respond to evil because we're a loving nation and respond to evil by helping people in need.

My hope is that Americans seize this moment and show the world the true face of America. And it's a face that is really defined by millions of acts of kindness that take place on a daily basis. It happens when somebody mentors a child, or a mom tells her baby "I love you" every day, or somebody walks across the street and says to a shut-in, "I care for you." That's the America I know. That's the America that really is the country that's going to defeat evil—by acts of goodness and kindness.

I've never been more upbeat about a nation in my life, because I know the true strength of the country. And the true strength of the country is the American people.

Thanks for coming by.

NOTE: The President spoke at 4:27 p.m. in Presidential Hall in the Dwight D. Eisenhower Executive Office Building. In his remarks, he referred to Edward C. Sullivan, president, Building and Construction Trades Department, AFL-CIO; James P. Hoffa, general president, International Brotherhood of Teamsters; Joseph J. Hunt, general president, International Association of Ironworkers; J.W. "Bill" Marriott, Jr., chairman and chief executive officer, Marriott International, Inc.; President Saddam Hussein of Iraq; and Mayor Richard M. Daley of Chicago, IL. He also referred to H.R. 3210, the proposed "Terrorism Risk Protection Act"; and S. 1748, the proposed "Terrorism Risk Insurance Act of 2001."

Interview With the Wall Street Journal

April 8, 2002

Q. Thanks for doing this. This is really—I appreciate it a lot.

The President. You bet.

Q. It's a big event tomorrow for the Wall Street Journal.

The President. Well, I understand—yes, I understand you're kind of changing your format.

Q. Yes. It will look different, color.

The President. What about the sketches? What happened to the poor sketches?

Q. They'll still be there. You'll still get one.

Counselor Karen Hughes. This is—journal——

Q. Somewhat short.

Q. Subdued color. Champagne, as they call it.

The President. What is your job?

Q. I'm the Washington bureau chief.

The President. What is Al Hunt's job?

Q. He's the executive Washington editor. I can't define that exactly for you; somebody else will have to do that for you.

The President. Somebody upstairs somewhere.

Q. He's the guy you have to worry about.

The President. Good. That's why he's here. [*Laughter*]

Q. It's a good day to be here. It's a good day to be talking to a former oil guy, actually.

The President. Yes.

Iraqi Oil Exports/Energy Policy

Q. And I thought maybe we would start there. You saw what the Iraqis said today about cutting off oil exports.

The President. Taking production off for a month?

Q. Yes. And the Iranians and the Libyans have said similar things. Do you worry about some form of another Arab oil embargo or some form of oil embargo by some people?

The President. Here's my thoughts on that. One, it means that we need an energy policy that encourages diversification away from places like Iraq. You know, the ANWR debate has been amazing to watch because of the amount of misinformation that has been laid out there. But the reason I bring up ANWR is because it just so happens that once production is up and running on a very small footprint in the middle of this vast country, we can produce as much oil as Iraq produces on the world market.

A good energy policy is one that obviously encourages conservation and new technologies but is also one that helps America diversify away from sources of crude oil in places like Iraq. And I—the first I heard of this, I said this is a—justifies more than ever the call for exploration in areas where technology will allow us to do so in environmentally friendly ways.

I also saw the response of other nations, nations that were willing to step up and increase production, and I appreciate that as well.

My other reaction is that Saddam Hussein is willing to cut off production even though it affects his own people. It helps define the nature of this regime. I've told people as I've made the case for—about my strong feelings about Iraq, that this is a person who is willing to poison his own people. Now it looks like he's willing to cut off revenues so that he can't feed his own people. Anyway, I'm not—I mean, axis of evil.

Q. You mentioned the statements by other countries. Did you—have you heard anything from Saudi Arabia? Did Secretary Powell hear from Saudi Arabia?

The President. I haven't, not yet. He's, as a matter of fact, eating dinner with Crown Prince Abdullah as we speak. No, I just—I thought Ari told me that there had been some movement on the——

Press Secretary Ari Fleischer. They said they're not going to follow a call for an embargo; OPEC has said that.

Q. And in terms of—if you have Iraq, if you have Iran, possibly Libya, you still have a substantial effect on the market, couldn't it?

The President. Well, it could, absolutely. There is excess supply, and we'll just see how it plays out. But to me, it indicates that—well, that's another reason why we've got to be very cautious about making bold predictions about the economy. We're an energy-dependent nation. And as a result, it's—you know, it points up to part of the fragility of our economy. In other words, when you're dependent, a price spike can affect growth, obviously.

So I'm pleased with some of the progress being made, but as I told the folks there in this speech I just gave on terrorism insurance: You know, people can try all the numbers and prognostications and all they want; I'm the kind of fellow who believes that if somebody can't find work or is worried about their job, we've got a problem. And bad energy policy or the failure to have energy policy or the fact that we're dependent upon unstable countries is a reason why I am—do not believe that we're out of the economic woods yet.

Q. Is what Iraq is doing, does it amount to a hostile act against the U.S.?

The President. Well, I wouldn't call it a friendly gesture. It is—you know, this is a man who obviously hates America. And he's not just affecting America, by the way; it's affecting countries—all countries. If, in fact, his action has the—is able to run the price of crude up, it's going to affect Europe; it's going to affect poor nations; it's going to affect poor people around the world. This is a guy who has tried to manipulate the market for short-term gain for the wrong reason, is a person who is unfriendly to all nations, as far as I'm concerned.

Q. You would like a better energy policy; that's fine, and that's understandable. In the shorter term, if you've got a problem, there are some other options you can consider. You could think about SPROs out there.

The President. Could do that.

Q. There are gas taxes that could be reduced. Either of those options appeal to you?

The President. We'll look at all options. If, in fact, his threat—look, we're the kind of people that deal with problems; that's what happens in the White House. You're dealt a problem, and we deal with it. And we'll look at all options. But let's—I think we need to be a little careful about predicting whether or not this man is going to have the effect he wants to have until——

President Saddam Hussein of Iraq

Q. The effort to do something about Saddam Hussein has obviously been kind of put on hold while this Middle East situation gets sorted out. It could take a long time to sort out the Middle East situation. How long does it stay on hold?

The President. Well, not necessarily.

Q. Not necessarily——

The President. I wouldn't—you made—repeat your question. I think you made a pretty strong assumption in your question.

Q. Well, it's only based on the 20 years of history.

The President. No, what did you just say, though—seriously, I'm not being critical. I'm just curious. Again, you just said my plans for Iraq have been placed on hold?

Q. Yes. Is that incorrect?

The President. Iraq is a problem, and again, another reason why it's a problem, we witnessed today. And we are constantly talking with our friends and allies about Iraq. I spent a great deal of time this weekend talking to Tony Blair about Iraq. As I've said, all options are on the table for Iraq, and that's about all I've—pretty much about all I'm going to say. I don't know what you meant by——

Q. It would be wrong to say that your plans are on hold?

The President. You see, I assume from your question that we're not really thinking about Iraq now, that somehow, because the Middle East has flared up, any thought about Iraq or keeping a coalition together on Iraq——

Q. I was thinking more action rather than thought.

The President. Well, I mean, we're looking at all options. And Iraq is an important country. By the way, chasing down the Al Qaida killers is still a priority, even though the Middle East has flared up. I'm in no hurry on a lot of issues. I'm a patient man; I'm a deliberate person. I understand we live in a world where people are constantly saying, "Gosh, after 6 months, how come this isn't over?" Some people say that; most Americans don't feel that. They understand that we're in the long, long pull. So you've got to put everything in context.

And the way I am, I'm a deliberate, patient man when it comes to conducting this war, thorough war, to defend our freedom. And I have said publicly that the idea of an Al Qaida terrorist network hooking up or matching up with or allied with—let me start over—"allied with," I think, is a more understandable word—a nation that has developed a weapon of mass destruction is a scenario that I will not leave our children saddled with, in other words.

And again, my timeframe is longer rather than shorter. In other words, the fact that we haven't proved whether or not Saddam—or bin Laden is alive or dead or—he may be dead, may be alive, that fact just simply doesn't bother me. Because if he is alive, we're going to get him eventually, and if he's dead, that's fine, too.

But we're making progress there, just quietly, steadily making progress. Abu Zubaydah is a very good example; for those of you who follow the Al Qaida network, you understand the significance of an Abu Zubaydah capture. And anyway, I don't know if I answered your question properly. In other words, it almost implied that things have to be immediate on all fronts; otherwise, there's not a focus. And that's just not the case.

Q. Just as a prognostication——

The President. Just as a hypothetical?

Q. See, that's not what I was going to say. You can define it, I guess.

The President. Okay.

Q. Do you think if we're sitting here a year from now talking, Saddam Hussein is still going to be in power in Iraq?

The President. That's one of those hypotheticals. [*Laughter*] I'm not going to——

Gas Taxes

Q. Let me go back to something I mentioned earlier, gas taxes. Any reason for Republicans to start thinking about rolling back some gas taxes at this point?

The President. I think you're asking me—you're speculating on something that hasn't occurred yet.

Gas Prices

Q. Just to follow up on that, though, how much of a—do you have any sense of how much of an increase in the price of oil or the price of gas we could see as a result of this?

The President. No, I don't yet. I understand you all are trying to make news, but this is—this is a fresh statement by—so we've just got to see how the world reacts.

But one thing is for certain: The fact that people are concerned points up the fact that we had better do something for the good of our country in terms of diversification of supply away from sources of crude oil in places like Iraq.

Israeli Withdrawal From Palestinian Territories

Q. The other part of your Middle East problem today is obviously on the West Bank. You don't seem to have gotten much of a response.

The President. Actually, there is some new news. IDF announced they were withdrawing out of two Israeli cities. What are the names of them, Steve?

Deputy National Security Adviser Hadley. Tulkarm and Qalqilya.

The President. Qalqilya. That's right. And that's a beginning. If responsible leaders want peace, they must—there are clear things that they must do. The Arabs must condemn and fight terrorism. They must cut off funding. They must stop propagandizing about the great heroic martyrdom of suicide killers. They must explain clearly that Israel has a right to exist and they intend, as leaders, to coexist with Israel in a peaceful way.

The Israelis must continue withdrawal. I was very concerned that a point had been reached at which it would be very difficult to achieve peace. We want peace. We have laid out the vision for peace, and Israel has recognized the Palestinian state. Israel has signed on to Tenet and Mitchell, as has the PLO. And my point is that Israel has recognized the framework for peace, and it's time for her to start pulling out in order to allow all of us who care about peace to be able to work to get peace in the region.

Q. Have you been told by the Israelis that this is a response, the beginning of a response to what you asked for in the last few days?

The President. I have not been told that. All I can tell you is they're beginning to withdraw, at least from these two cities, as of an hour ago.

Q. What did you think of the Prime Minister's speech to the Knesset? Have you had a chance to——

The President. Today?

Q. Yes.

The President. I didn't see it. I had a—the only thing I've heard from him was, we had a good conversation on Saturday.

Q. A good conversation?

The President. Yes. I mean, it was good in the sense that he knows where I stand, and he heard my—it was a good, frank discussion, let me put it to you that way. Ari told me that the word was moving around that it was a very hostile conversation. It wasn't. It was just a very frank discussion about two leaders who are concerned about the region.

Q. What he said today was basically—I don't know if I can get you the exact words—but, "We're going to keep going until we're done." It didn't say when that was going to be.

The President. I just can tell you they started pulling out of cities.

Q. When you talked to him, or just in general, are there consequences if that doesn't continue?

The President. It's going to continue.

Q. Sorry?

The President. I think it will continue.

Q. The withdrawal?

The President. I think he heard what I said, and I repeated it again today, prior to this news. And Colin Powell's mission is to continue to work to set the framework for

political discussions, and part of that is for Israel to withdraw.

Secretary of State Powell's Visit to the Middle East

Q. And as part of the Powell mission, do you anticipate him meeting with Arafat?

The President. It depends on the circumstances at the time. He's got full latitude to do what he thinks is necessary to get the process headed toward a political settlement.

Chairman Yasser Arafat of the Palestinian Authority

Q. And if Yasser Arafat does what sort of things between now and when Security Powell gets there, is that more likely to happen?

The President. That's up to Powell. But obviously—listen, Yasser Arafat, as I've said—somebody asked me the other day, have I lost trust in him? I said, "Well, he never earned my trust."

The way you earn trust is by leading and by, you know, not squandering missed opportunities—squandering opportunities, creating missed opportunities after missed opportunities, to provide—here you've got a nation, America. I'm the first President, I believe, to have ever gone to the United Nations and laid out a vision for a Palestinian state at peace with Israel. And this is an administration that laid out the Tenet plan, embraced the Mitchell plan that was, I guess, finalized on my watch but started under President Clinton's watch. So you've had two administrations working toward a blueprint for peace. And Mr. Arafat, instead of focusing and seizing and using his energy to achieve this vision, has not led. So he's never earned my trust.

Q. So who leads, if Arafat doesn't?

The President. Arafat is the leader. That's who we're dealing with.

Secretary of State Powell's Visit to the Middle East

Q. Do you have any interest in having Powell see alternative Palestinian leaders while he's there?

The President. I think Colin ought to visit with whomever is necessary to move the peace agenda, and he'll just use his judgment. We've got General Zinni on the ground there. Burns, I believe—Burns is with Powell. So we've got our experts there that understand the area very well. And Powell has got an agenda, which is to move the process toward a political settlement. And obviously, we've laid the conditions out in my speech on Thursday, as to what it will take. And he's got the U.N. resolution standing behind him, a blueprint toward where we need to get, and there are responsibilities on both parties.

Crown Prince Abdullah of Saudi Arabia

Q. Somebody suggested to me that one reason that you dispatched Secretary Powell was that the Saudis were—that you had some frank conversations with the Saudis over the last few days, including one in which they indicated the Crown Prince might not make it to Crawford, Texas, unless the situation——

The President. No.

Q. Can you describe the conversations with the Saudis on this point?

The President. Well, listen, the Saudis are just as concerned as other nations in the region. But the idea of saying, "You must do this, or else I'm not going to come to Crawford," just isn't—that didn't happen. Not only didn't it happen, it wouldn't be a very smart thing for anybody to do. It's just not the way I—it's not the way we do things in this administration.

Energy/National Economy

Q. Let me go back to oil for just a second, and then I think you want to switch to something else. Have you gotten, in any kind of conversations with the Saudis, any assurances that they are not in the oil embargo business anymore and that they'll try to make sure others don't——

The President. I'm sure the subject will come up with Colin and the Crown Prince, but this has been relatively—you know, this is new.

Q. Right.

The President. So it'll be a topic of conversation.

Q. Yes. Yes.

The President. And as Ari said, he felt like that the OPEC, as well as the Saudis—again, tell me the news; I haven't seen it.

This is all breaking since I just arrived from Knoxville.

Counselor Hughes. The President has been in Tennessee.

The President. Ari watched the whole speech on C–SPAN in Knoxville, didn't you?

Press Secretary Fleischer. Yes. They said they're not going along with the call.

The President. So we just have to see.

Q. But it's your—the recovery is fragile enough that there are things that can still throw it off track.

The President. Oh, I think so. I don't think the recovery is a given. And that's why we need to have this terrorism bill, terrorism insurance bill. I mean, there are things that Congress can do, and I think there are some signed signals we need to send. We need a trade bill. We need an energy bill—that will help—even though it won't happen immediately. Diversification won't happen immediately. It will help calm nerves. It means that the long term is more optimistic than not.

So there are things we need to do. California, the California energy situation wasn't a year ago. And yet, it seems like it was years ago that California looked like it was running out of energy. And to me, that was a wake-up call. Where are we going to get our gas from to fuel the electricity, the new plants that were built in California?

And you know, the Prime Minister of Canada is thrilled that we're increasing demand, because he's a major supplier of gas, and we're going to have to work with them. That's why I've got this hemispheric energy group, Mexico, Canada, the United States, meeting as to how to increase supplies in our hemisphere, the need for pipelines, and where they ought to go.

In other words, that's important. And Mexico, herself, is grappling with a constitutional issue on energy. We export about 8 percent of our natural gas to Mexico. And obviously, to the extent that Mexico is able to attract capital and explore for more gas, it's good for Mexico in terms of jobs; it's good for their cash flow; and it's good for the energy picture in our hemisphere.

In my judgment, obviously, we've got to go to Alaska. It's a part of a strategy to diversify away from unstable sources of energy. And we need more nuclear power as well. That's why the Yucca Mountain issue is an issue. We need clean coal technology. We need a comprehensive effort. And we need conservation as well. The interesting fact that came out of the California energy crisis was that they increased their conservation by about 10 percent, which is significant and necessary and good.

I believe that some of the—I've got faith that technology will—that we will have new automobiles. But it's not going to be quick enough to deal with immediate issues in the Middle East, for example. In other words, down the road there is going to be some new technology. We'll still be driving, all of us; we'll still be driving, and we'll be driving cars that make us less dependent on foreign sources of crude and are much cleaner burning.

Corporate Management Reform

Q. You wanted to switch to corporate——

Q. Yes. Well, you were talking about things that potentially threaten the recovery. Do you think that the—I don't know if "crisis" in confidence is too strong a word, but the feeling, you know, the concerns about corporate governments is a serious——

The President. I think it's a serious—I think it's an issue that we need to look at and look at very carefully. I think the markets reflect the fact, though, that most investors have still got confidence in our economy and in corporate America. But reforms are necessary, and the CEOs need to be held accountable for full exposure or full detail of assets and liabilities. There needs to be pension review. If officers sell, the employees ought to be able sell. There ought to be better information sharing. There ought to be more diversification.

On the other hand, we've got to make sure that we don't disincent companies for 401(k) compensation. I think it's a vital part of building up savings for our workers.

There are discussions now about options, how we handle options. I think options are important. I think they're a good incentive program. I think once options earn the money, that they ought to be calculated in the dilution of—yes, be part of the—that they ought to be dilutive in their earnings

per share calculations. To me, that seems like a reasonable way to handle that issue so that people fully understand the effect of options being granted.

Q. But not as Chairman Greenspan has suggested, expensing?

The President. My personal opinion is that—and I think most of the people in my administration feel like the best way to calculate—you know, earnings are earnings. And earnings per share is the calculation oftentimes used in an investment decision. And so we ought to state the earnings for what they are and affect the earnings per share. Listen, Alan Greenspan is very smart; I hate to get into a debate with him. But my view is, is that it achieves both objectives. One, what are the true earnings of the company? And two, what is the dilutive effect of options in the money? We may perhaps get to the same end that he is trying to achieve, and that is a full accounting of options. To me, that's a reasonable way to do that.

Arthur Andersen/Corporate Responsibility

Q. One of the things that's happening right now is that, obviously, Arthur Andersen is teetering on the brink. Are you—is it possible the Justice Department went a little too far and a little too hard after Arthur Andersen? Are you comfortable with the idea that they might go away, as a result of what the Justice Department has done?

The President. Well, I believe people ought to be held responsible for decisions made, and I will refer—I'll ask you to refer your questions to the Justice Department as to their tactics and decisions. Since they filed the suit, they'll be good at explaining it to you.

Q. But there are policy—I mean, there are policy issues involved. And some people say the way the Justice Department went at it is—you know, threatened to put thousands of people on the street who were totally innocent and all of this.

The President. There is a need to hold people responsible. I oftentimes talk about responsibility era—each of us need to be personally—you know, personal responsibility. I also make sure I broaden that to corporate responsibility as well. There is a responsibility for leadership to conduct themselves in a responsible way. I'll leave the details to the Justice Department, but the idea of holding people accountable or entities accountable is a very important part of ushering in the responsible era. And we'll let—there are all kinds of pundits, and I've heard this, that, and other. We'll just let the Justice Department answer those questions about the tactics.

Q. Do you think corporate America had kind of gotten away from that responsibility?

The President. I think—I do think there have been periods where the growth and the apparent creation of wealth gets so kind of easy, in a way, that people forget—not all people but some forget.

I remember the oil business in the early eighties, and people would say, "The price is going to 100." You know? And investment decisions were pretty lax. It just seemed like there was this kind of euphoria that swept up this particular sector. And every IPO hit, and everybody was in the money and options. It just seemed like the sky was the limit. There was never going to be any reality.

And during those periods of time, sometimes, some fail to remember that they have a responsibility to people other than themselves—namely, shareholders. And when we look back at this period, I think we'll find some incidents of that.

You asked me whether or not those incidents would cause lack of confidence in the future. I don't think so at all, and I think the market reflects that. On the other hand, it does call us to action, and that's one of the reasons why we've laid out a series of initiatives to deal with this issue.

I worry about a board of directors that are too acquiescent to a CEO, beholden not to the shareholder but to the CEO. That concerns me. I'm not sure of the law that you can pass necessarily, but I do think there is a culture that can evolve out of this period of time which will remind people they have a responsibility as leaders of a corporation.

Q. Can you do anything to make that evolution happen?

The President. Well, I think it is happening. I can't, as the President, call upon, reform and change and call people to account, in a broad sense. I mean, I'm not

going to get involved in every lawsuit that comes down the pike, but I can remind people that we have a responsibility as citizens.

And there is a big responsibility in corporate America amongst the CEOs who treat their workers with respect. I was particularly grateful of the automobile manufacturers to promote product with keeping their workers' livelihoods in mind. I thought that was noble during this period of time. That sometimes stands in contrast to a corporate stereotype where people say, you know, "I don't really care about the livelihood of the workers. For me, I'm going to bottom line, focus immediate bottom line." There is a responsibility that these leaders have.

Situation in the Middle East

Q. Can I just return to the Middle East for a second? I can't get over it. When——

The President. You're writing about it for your whole life.

Q. I know. I'm stuck. I'm in a rut; I admit it. It's pathetic. [*Laughter*]

The President. No, it's important.

Q. Sometimes.

The President. You know, it's an issue that has consumed enormous amounts of time by this administration and every administration preceding me in modern history.

Q. It's lifetime employment for journalists, too.

The President. It's an important issue. It's an issue in which we've got enormous stake. It is an issue that—there has to be a vision of peace; there has to be a commitment to peace. And my job is to lay out that vision and to lead parties to the steps necessary to achieve the vision. And it's going to take a while.

Step one, in order to get there, is withdrawal of troops, from the Israeli perspective; and for the Arabs, to stand up and be accountable for holding—cutting off financing of terrorists and disrupting terrorist networks. These are people that do not—the terrorists and bombers do not want peace. They want to kill to prevent peace.

Q. Just to finish that thought, though—as you've often said, you're an optimistic person.

The President. Yes.

Q. Doesn't it feel like we're further away from any kind of a resolution than we've been in a long time?

The President. Well, I—listen, I hate the killing. Yes, in one way it seems like we're a long way away from peace, obviously, when you turn on your TV and see death, suicide bombers blowing up Passover celebrations, young Arab girl blowing up a young Israeli girl.

But I also know if the innate goodness of mankind and that there are people who understand that this way is—as I said, enough is enough. I think there is enough good will in the region, inherent goodness of the people on both sides of the issue that we'll ultimately have leadership say, "We're sick of this, and now let's work together."

I don't know if it's going to be a month or a year, however long. But nevertheless, this is a—and you have to look at it that way. You have to believe that peace is possible, and I believe it is. Ask Jerry Seib if peace is possible. He knows this issue better than me.

But I believe it is, and my administration will continue to work as if it is achievable. And one of our jobs is to pick and choose the time when we spend capital, be judicious in how we approach these issues, to not create false expectations, to be realistic about what's possible, and lead.

But in order to lead, you've got to see a better day. And I feel that. This picture right here says—it's a Tom Lea. He wrote the line, "Sarah and I live on the east side of the mountain. It is the sunrise side, not the sunset side. It's the side to see the day that is coming, not to see the day that is gone." And I love that picture, because I love the man and I love Texas; because I also love the quote, because it is a frame of mind necessary—it's a frame of mind that a President must have in order to be a good President.

And I believe that there are a lot of people in the Middle East, average, hard-working mothers and fathers, who want to see a better day. And we've got to lead to that better day.

NOTE: The interview began at 5 p.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. In his remarks, the President referred to Prime Minister Tony Blair of the United Kingdom; Usama bin Laden and

Abu Zubaydah, leaders of the Al Qaida terrorist organization; Prime Minister Ariel Sharon of Israel; U.S. Special Envoy to the Middle East Gen. Anthony Zinni, USMC (Ret.); Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs William Burns; Prime Minister Jean Chretien of Canada; and Jerry Seib, Washington bureau deputy chief, Wall Street Journal. The President also referred to the Tenet plan, the Israeli-Palestinian cease-fire and security plan of June 13, 2001, negotiated by Director of Central Intelligence George J. Tenet; and the Mitchell report, the Report of the Sharm el-Sheikh Fact-Finding Committee, issued April 30, 2001. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this interview.

Message to the Senate Transmitting the India-United States Treaty on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters With Documentation

April 8, 2002

To the Senate of the United States:

With a view to receiving the advice and consent of the Senate to ratification, I transmit herewith the Treaty between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Republic of India on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters, signed at New Delhi on October 17, 2001. I transmit also, for the information of the Senate, the report of the Department of State with respect to the Treaty.

The Treaty is one of a series of modern mutual legal assistance treaties that the United States has concluded or is negotiating in order to counter criminal activities more effectively. The Treaty should be an effective tool to assist in the investigation and prosecution of a wide variety of modern crimes, including terrorism-related crimes, drug trafficking, and "white collar" crimes. The Treaty is self-executing.

The Treaty provides for a broad range of cooperation in criminal matters and related proceedings. Mutual assistance available under the Treaty includes: (1) taking the testimony or statements of persons; (2) providing documents, records, and items of evidence; (3) locating or identifying persons or items; (4) serving documents; (5) transferring persons in custody for testimony or other purposes; (6) executing requests for searches and seizures; (7) assisting in proceedings relating to seizure and forfeiture of assets, restitution, and collection of fines; and (8) rendering any other form of assistance not prohibited by the laws of the Requested State.

I recommend that the Senate give early and favorable consideration to the Treaty and give its advice and consent to ratification.

George W. Bush

The White House,
April 8, 2002.

Remarks on the Proposed "Citizen Service Act" in Bridgeport, Connecticut

April 9, 2002

Thank you all very much. I appreciate so very much your warm welcome. I am delighted to be here in Bridgeport, Connecticut. I want to spend some time with you today talking about the spirit of our country, the great American spirit which has been tested in recent times. But history will record that we've met the test.

I saw some of that spirit today in the South End Community Center. I met a fine executive director named Tony Tozzi, and thank you, Tony, for your hospitality. I saw members of AmeriCorps who were mentoring children. I saw members of the Senior Corps, the Foster Grandparent Program who, as opposed to kind of settling in, these Senior Corps members decided to continue to give something to our society. And many are giving the most important gift of all, and that is to teach a child how to read. I want to thank you.

I appreciate Catherine Milton, the vice president and executive director of Save the Children. Thank you very much, Catherine, for your focus.

I want to thank my friend Steve Goldsmith for taking on the important assignment of being the chairman of the Corporation for National and Community Service. One of the things I feel very passionate about is our need to inspire the armies of compassion, which exist in neighborhoods all throughout America. And you'll hear me talk a little later on

about the need to fight evil by doing some good. And one of Steve's jobs is to help gather the spirit of America and channel it and focus it so everybody understands the American experience, the hope of America belongs to them, no matter where they live or how they were raised.

I want to thank my friend the Governor of Connecticut, Johnny Rowland, and the first lady, Patty Rowland, for being here as well. I want to thank Chris and Betsi Shays, the Congressman and wife from this district. And I also want to thank two other members from the Connecticut congressional delegation, friends of mine, Nancy Johnson and Rob Simmons. Thank you all for being here. Thanks for coming.

You know, I can't imagine what went through the mind of the evil people when they attacked America. I'm trying to—I've always tried to figure out who they thought they were attacking. You know, what were they thinking? They must have thought that this Nation had no character, that we were so materialistic and self-absorbed that we wouldn't act, that we might just—all we'd do was sue them. [*Laughter*] They didn't understand the true character of the American country, the Nation.

You see, we love freedom. We love the freedom to worship the way we see fit. We welcome all faiths in America, Christian faiths, Jewish faith, Muslim faith. We welcome faith. We believe in freedom to worship. We believe in freedom to speak out loud. We believe in freedom of the press. We believe in free elections. We believe in the dignity and worth of every individual. That's what we believe.

And if somebody attacks those beliefs, we'll respond. That's the character of our country, is that when we believe something, we stand up for it. We are slow to anger, but when angered, watch out. We also are—we're a nation that does not seek revenge. That's not in the American character, as far as I'm concerned. We seek justice. We're a nation of justice. This Nation has also showed remarkable character in this way: We're patient; we're a patient nation; and we're a disciplined and focused nation.

Americans understand that the new war of the 21st century, the struggle for civilization, itself, is going to take a while. You know, we live in an age where things happen so quickly that one of my concerns after September the 11th was the farther we got away from September the 11th, the more our grief was behind us, that I thought the American people might forget that which is at stake. That's not the case—much to the chagrin of the killers, who continue to want to bring harm to America.

Make no mistake about this, that we're in for the long pull because there are people who hate us. They hate what we stand for, and they're killers. They use killing to justify their beliefs, and I'm not going to let that stand. My job is to protect the American people. And our job is to stand strong so that our children and our children's children will know the freedoms that we knew growing up. That's what's at stake, my fellow Americans; at least that's how I view it. And so long as I'm the President, that's going to be the view of this Government.

In 6 short months we have made remarkable progress. We really have. You know, I said early on, I said to the people, "You're either with us, or you're against us." I said, "Either you're standing with the United States of America in our quest and desire to protect freedom, or you're not. There is no middle ground." And I'm proud to report the coalition—there has been a vast coalition of nations that have joined us, nations of all stripes, all who understand what's at stake. I also said that if you harbor a terrorist and you feed one, you're just as guilty as the murderers who came to New York City and Washington, DC. And as a result of a great United States military and a military of many of our friends, we have liberated a country.

It's important for the young here to hear this: We didn't go into Afghanistan as conquerors; this great Nation led a coalition of military folks to go into Afghanistan as liberators. It's hard for Americans to know and to believe, but many young girls were not allowed to go to school in Afghanistan because of the barbaric nature of the Taliban regime. But thanks to the United States, and thanks to our friends and allies, girls now go to school in Afghanistan, for which I am mighty proud.

That is the character of the American people. We're plenty tough when we need to be, and we'll remain tough. But we're also compassionate. We care deeply about our fellow citizens in this world. We care deeply about the plight of children, no matter where they may live. That's our nature. And that's how I feel about it at home too. I feel like out of this evil is going to come some incredible good. I believe—I believe—that out of this evil will come peace in regions of the world that we never dreamt would be peaceful.

It's not going to be easy, and we're going to have to lead. And we're going to have to be diligent and resist and fight terror wherever we find it. But we've got a good chance for long-lasting peace. And at home there is going to be some incredible good that comes out of this evil, because Americans have got great character, and Americans care for their neighbors in need.

People say, "What can I do to join the war against terror?" And I say, love your neighbor just like you'd like to be loved yourself. If you want to fight evil, find somebody to help. And I'm prepared to help you find somebody to help, if you want help. If you want to find a way to help your country, that's what I'm here to talk about. There are all kinds of ways to help; don't get me wrong. I mean, you can go to your church or synagogue and mosque and help a lot. You can help a lot. You can help a program—devise a program to feed the homeless, help put a program together that goes into some of the pockets of despair in America and spread love, one person at a time. That's what you can do to help.

Service and voluntarism are an integral part of the American character. DeToqueville discovered that years ago, and if he were to come back, he'd be just as proud of America now as he was then, when it came to the willingness of our citizens to serve each other.

You know, I have been so impressed by the living spirit in America. It's been unbelievable to see firsthand how alive this country has become, how focused our Nation is on serving something greater than ourself. Perhaps it had to do with the vivid lesson of Flight 93. Here we are; we're a nation kind of moving along; we thought oceans would separate us from any threats; kind of, you know, perhaps in a culture of self-absorption. And all of a sudden, people on an airplane called their loved ones, told them they loved them, said a prayer, and sacrificed to save somebody else's life.

To me, that was one of the most meaningful moments of September 11th and on. It spoke of a spirit that—of America that recognizes there's something greater than ourselves, the need to serve our fellow mankind. These folks did it in the most courageous of ways, but we can do it in other ways as well here at home.

And so in my State of the Union or my speech to the Nation—whatever you want to call it, speech to the Nation—[*laughter*]—I asked Americans to give 4,000 hours over the next—over the rest of your life of service to America. That's what I asked. I said, 4,000 hours. Now, many of you already do that. So this is—there you go—this is a drop in the bucket for you. I understand that. But many Americans don't. So 4,000 hours of service for the remainder of your life. I set that as a goal, and Americans are responding. Many have heard the call.

And in order to channel that enthusiasm, we set up what's called the USA Freedom Corps. And inside the USA Freedom Corps, we're focused on three distinct areas, one, the Citizen Corps.

I was in Knoxville, Tennessee, yesterday heralding the Citizen Corps program. This is a chance for people to help the police, the firefighters, the local emergency medical teams to respond to any disaster that might occur. And if you're interested in helping the brave men and women of the police force or fire force or emergency medical teams in your community, join. Join the Citizen Corps. It is a way to help secure America and prepare America for a disaster if one should come.

And then, of course, AmeriCorps and Senior Corps are an integral part of the USA Freedom Corps. These are programs that recognize that in America, we can change our country one heart and one soul and one conscience at a time. You see, I used to like to say that Government can hand out money, but what Government cannot do is put hope

in people's hearts. That requires a loving, hopeful person to do just that. And I view AmeriCorps and Senior Corps as ways to tap into the great talent and strength and compassion of America to help people in need.

And then we've got the Peace Corps, and the Peace Corps is a great way for Americans to help teach the world about the universal values that we hold dear, the true nature of America, which sometimes is distorted around the world. People don't have the true picture of our country. And one way to make sure they do is to have compassionate citizens go into communities all around the world to teach—to teach all kinds of things. But the most important lesson they teach is that we're a loving country, that we care deeply about the citizens of the world.

And so if you're interested in helping the country in those three areas, you can call 1–877–USA–CORPS. Pick up your phone and dial—[*laughter*]—or if you're one of these high-tech souls, usafreedomcorps.gov. And you'll find a way to help the country. This will give you a chance to participate. And this is just one way, I emphasize. It's one opportunity. And by the way, through this Web site, you'll find other programs in the communities in which you live that will provide an outlet for your energy and your compassion.

You need to know that just so people—there is a gathering momentum of millions of acts of kindness that are taking place in the country. We've had—29,000 people requested applications for the Peace Corps in 6 months. Applications to join AmeriCorps are up by more than 70 percent. Twenty-five thousand people have signed up for the Citizens Corps. In other words, Americans are responding, and for that, all of us are grateful.

And one of the things I'm here to talk about is how to expand America's service programs and how to make them better and how to bring in new volunteers and, at the same time, make sure that which we're funding works, that we're actually meeting some goals.

I look forward to working with the Congress. I'm going to talk to the Members who are traveling back with me to Washington, DC, after these events, to talk about the reauthorization of these programs. The discussions are beginning to come up this week, so part of my speech is to lay the groundwork for how I think the reauthorization of these important Federal initiatives proceed.

And one of the things is funding, of course. That's an important part of any process. And I've asked for $290 million in new funding for these programs for the year 2003. And it's to help meet these goals: 25,000 additional, new AmeriCorps members, 25,000 more than we have now today all across the country; 100,000 new Senior Corps members; and two hundred to three hundred thousand students in the Federal workstudy program. That's what we're aiming at; that's the goal we've set. Some say it's too ambitious—nothing is too ambitious for America, as far as I'm concerned.

And here are some ways we can help make the programs more effective. First, by removing barriers that discourage seniors from joining the Senior Corps. Now, remember, the Senior Corps has got programs within it like the Foster Grandparent Program, programs all aimed at using the talents of our seniors to help make citizens' lives better where people are losing hope, where despair is too common and too prevalent.

Now, under the current law, volunteers cannot join some Senior Corps programs until they reach the age of 60. I think we need to lower it. And so I chose 55, my age. I guess I'm now eligible for Senior Corps, if they'd finally give me a chance to participate. My mother is not going to believe I'm eligible for Senior Corps. [*Laughter*] But if we can get this through the Congress, I will be.

We need to encourage programs to expand, to give people an outlet and a chance to participate. And we need to eliminate income tests that keep seniors out of the program. Believe this or not—believe it or not—some people are not allowed to participate in Senior Corps because they make too much money. That doesn't make any sense. And I'm confident that the Congresspeople here recognize that we've got to make sure Senior Corps is open to as many people who are willing to put up their hand and say, "I love America, and I want to help."

Many seniors participate in AmeriCorps, and that's good. That's what we want. Under a new proposal that I'm making to Congress, seniors who join AmeriCorps should be able to earn what we call a Silver Scholarship. In other words, when you work for AmeriCorps you get a scholarship if you go on to college. A senior who has already been to college should be able to earn that same scholarship and donate that to a member of their family, if they so choose. It makes sense to have older Americans helping younger Americans and at the same time helping their families as well.

I want to read this, by a girl named Nicole who works in Baltimore. She's an AmeriCorps member. Perhaps some of the AmeriCorps members will understand what she's saying when I read this to you: "None of it would have happened if I had not done AmeriCorps. AmeriCorps redirected my life forever. I know the direction my life is in: service to others, particularly the poor."

This is Nicole's reflection upon what it meant to work for AmeriCorps. It is a beautiful spirit, an important spirit for America. And so we're trying to figure out ways to make sure that AmeriCorps is attractive to young—to the Nicoles of the country. Right now, AmeriCorps members who complete a year of service receive an education award worth almost $4,700; $4,700 that will help them go to school. And that's good; it's really good. Under the proposal I'm making is that that award ought to be tax exempt and the $4,700 ought to have a cost-of-living adjustment.

As well, we need to reform the Federal workstudy programs. These are programs which encourage students to work off their Federal loans. It makes sense if you borrow money, that you ought to work them off. And the fundamental question is, how do we let them work it off? Right now, 7 percent—only 7 percent of the workstudy funds are required to be devoted to students who tutor, mentor, or perform other forms of service in their community, 7 percent. And so we think that we ought to raise that number to 50 percent, to say that we recognize that an incredibly valuable contribution to our society is to allow 50 percent of the students to work off their Federal loans by mentoring, by tutoring, by becoming involved in community programs which change America one person, one soul, one conscience at a time.

One of the things we hear is that Governors and mayors and local authorities are frustrated by the bureaucracy in Washington, DC. I understand. I've been there, myself. I have been frustrated, when I was the Governor of Texas, with the bureaucracy in Washington. Goldsmith's job, as well as Les', the executive director, is to reduce the amount of bureaucracy and to trust the States and local authorities more, to give the States and local authorities more flexibility as we—how to apply these monies to meeting the needs of the local folks.

It is very important that Washington—it's important that Washington provide flexibility in selecting the groups and charities in which AmeriCorps volunteers will be placed. We've got to trust the local folks to understand local problems. You know, I like to tell people, not all the wisdom of the world is in Washington, DC. [*Laughter*]

But we also want to make sure people are held accountable. We want to make sure when we spend money, that it meets needs. And so Steve and the good folks at the Corporation for National Community Service are going to develop clear standards and reasonable measures of performance so that we know whether or not we're being successful. I think that's really important. I think that's what the American taxpayer expects. They expect results, and I expect results.

And so if a program is failing, we ought to be willing to blow the whistle on failure, just for the good of the people. We're trying to help. And when a program is successful, we ought to be praising the program and its success and the people who are helping.

It is important, as well, that we make sure that we create a new standard of accountability for service-learning programs in America too. The whole purpose of accountability in government is to make sure that we're succeeding. And in this case, we're aiming for a noble goal, and this is a hopeful America, a promising America, an America that says clearly to everybody: This wonderful experience and this great land belongs to you just as much as it belongs to somebody else.

I've come to talk a little bit about the character of the country, and it's a character being defined by the moment at hand. History will look back at us; generations will look back at us; and I believe they're going to say, thanks, thanks to the people who stood strong when it came to defending freedom, thanks to those who sacrificed in our military, thanks to the Congress for making sure the military had the resources necessary to take on a long struggle.

Listen, you've just go to know, there's no cave deep enough—there's no cave deep enough—for the long arm of American justice. There is no calendar. There is no calendar on my desk that says, if we don't get—if so-and-so doesn't show up, then this thing ends. That's just not the way I think. I'm a patient man, and so is the American people, much to the chagrin—much to the chagrin of the enemy that still wants to take us on.

And we'll look back at the history of America, though—I believe this is going to happen—and say what a fantastic period of time it was for kids to grow up in our country where we insisted upon quality education for every child, where there was after-school programs available, manned by loving citizens who put their arm around those who might seem hopeless and say, "I love you a lot. I love you a lot, and you're going to college."

This is a time when you're going to find, I believe, in American history where our Government, instead of fearing faith and faith-based programs, welcomes faith and faith-based programs into the compassionate delivery—[*applause*]. This will be a time in American history when those of us in Washington, DC, or in the State capitals, recognize that oftentimes the most hopeful and promising programs of help come from places of worship. It doesn't matter what their religion is; the people hear that universal call to love somebody just like they'd like to be loved themselves.

This is a period of time when America, instead of cowering in the face of terrorism, stood defiantly in the face of evil; when not only did we fight for freedom, but we promoted the peace. And this will be a time in history when our Nation's compassion comes forth, where the collective face of America is a compassionate, joyous nation, that will not allow evil to prevail and, in turn, make sure our neighbors are loved just like they'd like to be loved themselves.

You can understand why I'm optimistic about our country, because I am the President of the greatest Nation on the face of the earth. Thank you for coming. May God bless. May God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:43 a.m. at the Klein Auditorium. In his remarks, he referred to Leslie Lenkowsky, chief executive officer, Corporation for National and Community Service. The President's principles for the proposed legislation were outlined in "Principles and Reforms for a Citizen Service Act," made available April 9 on the White House Web site.

Remarks at a Republican Luncheon in Greenwich, Connecticut

April 9, 2002

Thank you for that warm welcome. It's nice to be back in the State in which I was born. I was running for Congress one time, and they accused me of not being able to represent the people of west Texas because I was born in Connecticut. And I said, "Heck, I just wanted to be close to my mother on that day." [*Laughter*]

I know I've got a lot of people here are friends of Mother and Dad's. I just want you to know they're doing great, and so am I, and so is my wife. I'm sorry Laura couldn't be with us today. She went to the Queen Mother's funeral in London, and she's flying back tonight. But let me just tell you, for somebody who is a public school librarian, who wasn't all that thrilled about politics and all that in love with politicians, she's made a fabulous First Lady; she really has. She's brought a lot of comfort to the Nation when we needed to be comforted, and she brings a quiet dignity that I'm most proud of.

I also want to thank my friend Johnny Rowland. I'm here because I want the people of Connecticut to reelect Johnny. He's done a heck of a job as your Governor. And you get a good Lieutenant Governor with him as well. I appreciate Lieutenant Governor

Jodi Rell* for being here. Thank you very much. It's great to see you again. Lieutenant Governor Rell and I spent some quality time campaigning together, and I found her to be a very bright, very accomplished soul. It's great to see you again, Jodi.*

And I'm also here because I want Denny Hastert to be the Speaker of the House. It is important that we elect Republicans from Connecticut to support Denny Hastert.

I remember one time, right after—in the fall, people said, "Well, do you plan on campaigning?" I said, "Yes, I plan on campaigning." It is in my interest to campaign for good candidates, because I think it's in the Nation's interest that we have people like Chris Shays and Nancy Johnson and Rob Simmons represent the good people of Connecticut in Washington, DC.

I appreciate Shays. [*Laughter*] Sometimes, he appreciates me. [*Laughter*] But I enjoy working with him because he's a man of deep compassion. He cares deeply about the human condition, and so does his wife, Betsi. And it's been an honor to call them friends, and I appreciate you all very much.

I want to thank Charlie Glazer, the event chairman, longtime friend. I appreciate your tireless work. And I want to thank those who represent the grassroots of the Connecticut party. Oftentimes, those of us in public office only focus on one aspect of politics. But I like to remind people that it takes the good folks dialing the phones and mailing the mail, holding those signs up—at least the ones that say nice things on them. [*Laughter*] They're the ones who really oftentimes don't get the credit. And so for those of you who have toiled in the vineyards on behalf of candidates such as me and those on the stage, thanks from the bottom of our heart. And thank you all for helping the party, which helps Johnny, and helping the two candidates who have got serious challenges.

First, on Johnny. The way we like to put it in Texas is, he's the kind of fellow that does in office what he said he would do. I can't tell you how important it is to have people who hold office who deliver. And one of the jobs of a Governor is to help restore faith in the political process of a particular State. And the best way to defeat cynicism is to accomplish things on behalf of everybody, is to rise above the traditional noise that tends to dominate the political scene and perform. And that's what Johnny has done. He said he would cut taxes, and he did. He said he would reduce those taxes which inhibited growth in the State of Connecticut, and he did. And as a result, the economy here has been vibrant and exciting, thanks to Johnny's leadership.

Listen, he understands what I understand: Governments don't create wealth—we know that—but governments need to create an environment in which people are willing to risk capital, in which the entrepreneur can flourish. That's what's happening in Connecticut, thanks to Johnny Rowland's leadership.

I gave a speech the other day on the importance of making sure that children learn how to read early in life, so that when they start kindergarten, there's not this huge learning gap that takes place in America. Johnny figured that out way before my speech. He figured out preschool education was important before a lot of other people knew it was important. And I appreciate Johnny's efforts on focusing the State of Connecticut and his budget on preschool programs as well as spending billions of dollars to make sure class sizes are smaller in the State of Connecticut.

Listen, we passed historic education reform in Washington, DC. And thanks to the Members on the stage and both Republicans and Democrats working together, finally, in Washington, we were able to pass a meaningful piece of legislation, part of which is to not only hold people to high standards and to expect the best out of every child, but part of it is we're going to trust the Governors and local people to figure out the path to excellence. And it gives me great confidence in supporting such a bill, knowing that Johnny Rowland is the Governor of the State of Connecticut.

Serious crime has dropped by 15.7 percent in the State of Connecticut since Johnny's been the Governor. His record speaks for itself, and I'm confident the State will be wise enough to send Johnny back to the statehouse for another term. I certainly hope so, because he's a good man.

And Nancy Johnson's got a race. And surely the people of her congressional district are

* White House correction.

going to be wise enough to send this good soul back to Washington, DC, because she is a good soul. She's the dean of the delegation. She's a leader in the Republican Party. She has got enormous respect on both sides of the aisle, and that's important. If you're a person who goes to Washington to get something done, you've got to have the respect on both sides of the aisle, and Nancy Johnson does. She is—she has been in the Oval Office more than one time with steady counsel and good advice, and she's not afraid to give it. [*Laughter*]

She is a leading authority on health care and retirement security. If I've heard her say one time, I've heard her say 50 times, "Let's work together to get a plan to make sure our seniors have got prescription drug coverage." I agree with Nancy. We need to work together to achieve some important national objectives.

Nancy is a builder. She's a good, steady soul. She is working on pension reform, and she proudly stood with me when it came time to cut the taxes. And I want you to know we cut the taxes right at the right time. She understands that when you give people their money back or let them keep their own money in the first place, it increases demand. And when you increase demand, somebody is going to supply something for you. And when they supply that good or service, it means jobs. Cutting taxes, which I understand was unpopular on some of the opinion pages around America, was the exact right thing to do, and I want to thank Nancy and Rob and Chris for their support.

And we sent the death tax on its way. We're getting rid of that death tax. But unfortunately, there is a quirk in the law that means that the repeal of the death tax is not permanent. It's hard for me to explain why you eliminate the death tax, and all of a sudden it's able to come back to life. [*Laughter*] That's Washington. [*Laughter*]

We need to make the tax cuts permanent, and the three Members from the United States Congress understand that the repeal of the death tax is an important part of letting people realize the American Dream. And we've got small-business owners all over the country who've worked all their life, who want to leave their business to their heirs, to a son or a daughter, and can't do so because of the death tax.

Listen, getting rid of the death tax was great for farmers and ranchers. It's good to—it's a good policy if you're worried about urban sprawl, so they can keep the farmland in their families for generations. And we need to make it permanent. We need to make sure that the good work we did doesn't change because of a quirk in how Washington works. So the three Members up here are going to be important to make sure that the repeal of the death tax is forever, and that will be good for the country.

And I appreciate Rob Simmons. He and I showed up about the same time in Washington. [*Laughter*] And he is doing a fine, fine job. He's respected. When he speaks, people listen to what he has to say. As you know, he has had a lifetime of service to the country. He worked for the CIA after he served in the Army. He worked on the Senate staff. He's in the State legislature. He's worked hard, very hard, at every position he's held. And he's been a very fine Member of the United States Congress. He cares deeply about our veterans. He's a member of the Committee of Veteran Affairs. He knows our country owes a lot to the people who have worn the uniform. He's also on the Armed Services Committee. The Armed Services Committee is important for the State of Connecticut. It's important to have his voice heard on behalf of not only Connecticut, of course, but the entire Nation. But I'm confident he'd tell you things about Connecticut first. [*Laughter*] And the people of his district will be doing the State of Connecticut a very important service to send him back to Washington, DC, as well.

I have mentioned a couple of the issues that we've worked on, education and tax relief. But there's a lot to do in Washington. We need an energy policy, an energy policy on the one hand that enhances conservation, that unleashes the technology of the country to enable our cars to run cleaner, our plants to burn cleaner. But we need to explore more, too. We need to be less dependent on foreign sources of crude oil. This was made pretty clear the other day when Saddam Hussein stands up and announces he's going to try to organize an oil boycott. You

know my opinion about Saddam. [*Laughter*] The world's not going to follow him. But it just goes to show how important it is to diversify our supply away from places like Iraq.

We need to have trade promotion authority passed for the good of American workers. I need to be able to negotiate trade agreements with countries all around the world. That bill passed the House, just like the energy bill. It stalled in the Senate.

Nothing seems to be moving out of the Senate these days. A faith-based initiative passed the House. It is now sponsored by Joe Lieberman of Connecticut. It's stalled in the Senate.

We've got a lot of work to do in Washington, DC, and I appreciate these House Members' support. But there's no greater work to be done than to protect the American people. I have submitted a budget that prioritizes homeland defense and our national security. I submitted a budget that recognizes that we've got to prepare America for whatever emergency may come, a budget that puts ample amount of money in place to enable our first-responders, our brave police and firefighters and EMS crews all around the country, to have the equipment and training necessary to respond should the enemy hit us again.

I know the Coast Guard Academy is based here. In my budget, I beefed up the Coast Guard in order to make sure that our borders are more secure.

We've got to change the INS, the Immigration and Naturalization Service, so we understand who's coming into our country and what is their purpose for coming into our country. We've got to make sure we have a mechanism in place to deal with any bioterrorist attack that may occur. And so we've got—and I've got a good man, a friend of Johnny's and mine who is a fellow Governor of ours from Pennsylvania named Tom Ridge, running this operation.

You also need to know that every morning that I'm in Washington, I go into the Oval Office—which is a fabulous office, by the way. [*Laughter*] It's a great shrine to our country. I sit at the desk where the Roosevelts—I guess since I'm a President, I can call them the Roosevelt boys—sat at the desk, John Kennedy, Ronald Reagan. And I think my dad had a different desk.

And so I sit there and open up a threat assessment that our people put together about noise we hear of one kind or another about the enemy still is interested in hitting us. And so I'm reminded every day that my job is to protect America, which I'm going to do. Any time we get a hint, any time we get any evidence that somebody might be thinking about doing something, you need to know we're moving, and we're moving in a way that would make you proud.

But the best way to secure the homeland is to find the enemy wherever they try to hide and bring them to justice. The best way—make no mistake about it—you should not be confused about the nature of the people we're dealing with. They hate us because we're free. They hate the thought that Americans welcome all religions; they can't stand that thought. They hate the thought that we educate everybody. They hate our freedoms. They hate the fact that we hold each individual—we dignify each individual. We believe in the dignity of every person. They can't stand that.

And the only way they know to express themselves is through killing, coldblooded killing. And so we need to treat them the way they are, as international criminals. And that's why my defense budget is the largest increase in 20 years. You know, the price of freedom is high, but for me it's never too high because we fight for freedom.

I've tried to speak as clearly as I possibly can. You're either with us, or you're not with us. You're either with us, or you're against us. And the good news is, there's a lot of people with us. A lot of people love freedom like we do, and we've got a vast coalition we've put together that we work on. I had the honor of welcoming Tony Blair down to the ranch. We've got no finer friend, no stronger partner in our quest for freedom than Tony Blair.

I also said that if you hide a terrorist or feed one, you're just as guilty as a terrorist. And the Taliban found out exactly what we meant. We went into Afghanistan not as conquerors but as liberators.

It is so hard for people to understand, the fact that this was a government—it's hard for

people in America to understand that this is a government that would not let young girls go to school. I mean, these were barbaric, backward people. And we got them out of office. And not only did we get them out of office, we kept a nation from starving. We're helping with their health care system. I am so proud of the contributions that our military and Americans have made. It is a signal to the world that we're not only tough—if somebody wants to take us on, they will have made a bad mistake. But we're also compassionate, and we care deeply about the plight of our fellow human beings, no matter what part of the world they live in.

The enemy must be chagrined. You know, first of all, I can't imagine what went through their mind when they attacked. I like to remind people, they must have felt we were so materialistic and so self-absorbed and so weak and feeble that all we would do would be to file a lawsuit. [*Laughter*]

They thought we would grow weary. They thought we would tire. Man, are they wrong. This Nation is united and strong. And it's important that we be patient and united and strong, because there are still a lot of them out there. There just are; that's the reality. I deal with reality every day. But there's no cave deep enough for these people to hide in. You just need to know that.

The other day we hauled in a guy named Abu Zubaydah. He's one of the top operatives plotting and planning death and destruction on the United States. He's not plotting and planning anymore. He's where he belongs.

History has called us into action, and this Nation is responding. You've got to understand my mindset and what I think. We've got to act on behalf of the little ones. We've got to secure the world and this civilization as we know it from these evil people. We just have to do this.

And that includes making sure that some of the world's worst leaders who desire to possess the world's worst weapons don't team up with faceless, Al Qaida-type killer organizations. We owe it to the future of this country to lead a coalition against nations that are so evil and, at the same time, desire incredibly evil weapons. And you just need to know, so long as I'm the President, my focus is going to be defending freedom and making sure that, when they look back at history, they will have said the United States did what was necessary to keep the world free from terror and barbaric behavior.

And I want to thank these Members for their strong support of the defense budget that I submitted. And my call, of course, to the Congress is that instead of passing the defense budget last, like they always try to do, let's pass it first; let's get it done. Let's make sure our troops understand they're going to have the best equipment, the best training, and the best pay possible early in the budget cycle, not late.

I believe strongly in the inherent good of our country. I'm an optimistic fellow because I know what a great land we are—have—and what a great people we are. I believe out of this evil that has been done to our Nation will come incredible good. There's no doubt in my mind; there's no doubt in my mind, if we're firm and deliberate and tough, we'll achieve peace in places where we never dreamt there would be peace. If we're steady and rout out terror wherever it exists, we can achieve peace. And I know this country can respond to the evil acts by responding with acts of kindness and decency.

People say, "What can I do to help?" The answer is, love a neighbor like you'd like to be loved yourself. If you want to help America fight evil, do some good in your neighborhood. Put your arm around a child who may wonder whether or not the American experience is meant for them and say, "I love you." And more than that, teach them how to read, so they can understand what America is all about. If you really want to help, support your schools. Help people understand that loneliness and despair do not have to be a way of life. Walk across the street to a shut-in who may live in your neighborhood and say, "I care for you. What can I do to help you today?"

It's small acts of kindness and decency that define the true face of America for the world. If you want to fight evil, do some good. And it's that gathering momentum of millions of acts of kindness which will have the American people stand squarely in the face of the evildoers.

And that's happening in America. It is. Our culture is beginning to change from one of—that basically said, "If it feels good, just go ahead and do it," and, "If you've got a problem, blame somebody else," to one in which we're all responsible for the decisions we make in life, that we're responsible for loving our children. The most important job you'll ever have as a mother or father is to love your children with all your heart and all your soul.

A responsible period of time says that you will be involved in your community, that you shouldn't just take from the great American experience but you've got to give and you've got to help people in need. It means we've got corporate responsibility in America. CEOs of corporate America must not only be responsible for full disclosure of assets and liabilities, but they must also stay focused on the health and welfare of their workers.

There is a responsibility era emerging in America to the better—to the better—and as a result, we'll be able to overcome evil with good.

And perhaps that change of attitude and change of culture is best reflected by what took place on Flight 93. For me, it was one of the most meaningful stories of September 11th and on. It's the story of average Americans flying an airplane—on an airplane, traveling our country just like everybody else has done—most everybody has done—just got on an airplane and said, "I'm going to go somewhere," for business or pleasure, whatever it was. And they were told on their telephones that America was under attack. And they told their loved ones they loved them, and they said a prayer, and they drove the plane in the ground to save others' lives.

It is the ultimate—it's the ultimate statement of personal responsibility to serve something greater than yourself. And that's what's happening in America. Americans all around our country are serving something greater than their own self-promotion. And that's good. And that's the American spirit. And that's why I am so incredibly optimistic about the future of this country, because we're a land full of decent and caring and compassionate Americans.

Thank you all for coming today, and may God bless you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:55 p.m. in the Regency Ballroom at the Hyatt Regency Greenwich. In his remarks, he referred to President Saddam Hussein of Iraq; Prime Minister Tony Blair of the United Kingdom; and Abu Zubaydah, a leader of the Al Qaida terrorist organization, who was captured on March 28.

Remarks Following Discussions With Secretary General Lord Robertson of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization

April 9, 2002

President Bush It's an honor to welcome Lord Robertson back here to the White House. NATO is an anchor of security for both Europe and for the United States. And Lord Robertson is a very strong leader who is helping NATO meet the challenges of the new century.

Since September the 11th, NATO has been a bulwark in the fight against terror. On September the 12th, for the first time in history, NATO invoked Article V, declaring an attack on one of its members is an attack on all.

NATO did so to show its strong support for the United States. And NATO nations are backing up those words with action. More than a dozen of our NATO Allies are contributing forces to the war against terror in Afghanistan. NATO aircraft have been deployed to patrol our skies in support of America's security. And the airspace of NATO members has been critical to coalition air operations. The United States is deeply, deeply grateful for this support.

This past weekend in Texas, I thanked Prime Minister Tony Blair for the many valuable contributions of Great Britain. Today, on behalf of the American people, I thank Lord Robertson for his leadership and for the help of our NATO friends.

The United States will consult closely with our allies as we move forward in the war against terror. This is an important moment for NATO, and as we prepare for the NATO summit in Prague later this year, we must address some critical challenges. NATO must develop new, flexible capabilities to meet the threats of the 21st century.

We must take on new members, securing freedom from the Baltic to the Black Sea. And NATO must forge a new relationship with Russia that is even more constructive, so that we can finally and forever abolish the divisions that are relics of a previous era.

These are difficult challenges, requiring determination and leadership. And I'm so happy that NATO has a strong visionary leader in my friend Lord Robertson. It is our fourth meeting since I've taken office, and I look forward to many more.

Lord Robertson, I appreciate you coming.

Secretary General Robertson. Mr. President, thank you very much for these kind words. And I'm delighted to be here at the White House today, because it was on this very day in this city, 53 years ago, that a group of nations came together to create a common defense against a common threat, by saying an attack on one country would be deemed to be an attack on all.

It was, however, a very different world when NATO redeemed that pledge last September. But although the world has changed, the ties that bind the 19 NATO nations together have not, because this is an alliance built on shared principles and not on convenience, built on permanent values, not on expediency.

So as the President has said, it should be no surprise that so many NATO nations—all the NATO nations—are at the forefront of this war on terror. NATO is the kind of alliance that you need, because when facing a long-term strategic challenge, there's no substitute for long-term strategic partners, partners that you can trust and who trust you.

It's also the kind of alliance that works because when the going gets tough, the sheer training, standards, and structures are what welds different nations into an effective whole. It's also the kind of alliance that lasts because it adapts and modernizes, as it will indeed do at our summit meeting in Prague in November of this year—taking in new members, rising to new challenges, creating new capabilities to defeat new enemies and new threats.

So today the President and I discussed the common threats that we face, both in Europe and in North America, including from weapons of mass destruction. And NATO allies will work together to overcome these threats.

And I say this to you, that we will succeed because the record shows that NATO is an alliance that has served its members well in the past, is serving us well in the present, and as we continue to transform, will serve us well into the future.

Mr. President, this is indeed the fourth time that we've met. This is NATO's 53d birthday. It's strong, strong as it ever was. And it remains strong because the ties that bind us together are enduring, and they lie in the common values of freedom and democracy and of liberty.

Thank you very much for your kind——

President Bush. On that note, why don't I go buy you a meal?

NOTE: The President spoke at 6:15 p.m. in the Roosevelt Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Prime Minister Tony Blair of the United Kingdom.

Remarks on Human Cloning Legislation

April 10, 2002

Well, thank you all so very much for coming to the White House. It's my honor to welcome you to the people's house.

I particularly want to honor three folks who I had the honor of meeting earlier, Joni Tada, Jim Kelly, and Steve McDonald. I want to thank you for your courage; I want to thank you for your wisdom; I want to thank you for your extraordinary perseverance and faith. They have triumphed in the face of physical disability and share a deep commitment to medicine that is practiced ethically and humanely.

All of us here today believe in the promise of modern medicine. We're hopeful about where science may take us. And we're also here because we believe in the principles of ethical medicine. As we seek to improve human life, we must always preserve human dignity. And therefore, we must prevent human cloning by stopping it before it starts.

I want to welcome Tommy Thompson, who is the Secretary of Health and Human Services, a man who is doing a fine job for America. I want to thank Members from the

United States Congress, Members from both political parties who are here. I particularly want to thank Senator Brownback and Senator Landrieu for sponsoring a bill about which I'm going to speak.

As well, we've got Senator Frist and Senator Bond and Senator Hutchinson and Senator Santorum and Congressman Weldon, Stupak, and eventually Smith and Kerns. They just don't realize—thank you all for coming—they seem to have forgotten we start things on time here in the White House. [*Laughter*]

We live in a time of tremendous medical progress. A little more than a year ago, scientists first cracked the human genetic code, one of the most important advances in scientific history. Already, scientists are developing new diagnostic tools so that each of us can know our risk of disease and act to prevent them.

One day soon, precise therapies will be custom made for our own genetic makeup. We're on the threshold of historic breakthroughs against AIDS and Alzheimer's disease and cancer and diabetes and heart disease and Parkinson's disease. And that's incredibly positive.

Our age may be known to history as the age of genetic medicine, a time when many of the most feared illnesses were overcome. Our age must also be defined by the care and restraint and responsibility with which we take up these new scientific powers.

Advances in biomedical technology must never come at the expense of human conscience. As we seek what is possible, we must always ask what is right, and we must not forget that even the most noble ends do not justify any means.

Science has set before us decisions of immense consequence. We can pursue medical research with a clear sense of moral purpose, or we can travel without an ethical compass into a world we could live to regret. Science now presses forward the issue of human cloning. How we answer the question of human cloning will place us on one path or the other.

Human cloning is the laboratory production of individuals who are genetically identical to another human being. Cloning is achieved by putting the genetic material from a donor into a woman's egg, which has had its nucleus removed. As a result, the new or cloned embryo is an identical copy of only the donor. Human cloning has moved from science fiction into science.

One biotech company has already began producing embryonic human clones for research purposes. Chinese scientists have derived stem cells from cloned embryos created by combining human DNA and rabbit eggs. Others have announced plans to produce cloned children, despite the fact that laboratory cloning of animals has lead to spontaneous abortions and terrible, terrible abnormalities.

Human cloning is deeply troubling to me and to most Americans. Life is a creation, not a commodity. Our children are gifts to be loved and protected, not products to be designed and manufactured. Allowing cloning would be taking a significant step toward a society in which human beings are grown for spare body parts and children are engineered to custom specifications, and that's not acceptable.

In the current debate over human cloning, two terms are being used, reproductive cloning and research cloning. Reproductive cloning involves creating a cloned embryo and implanting it into a woman with the goal of creating a child. Fortunately, nearly every American agrees that this practice should be banned. Research cloning, on the other hand, involves the creation of cloned human embryos which are then destroyed to derive stem cells.

I believe all human cloning is wrong, and both forms of cloning ought to be banned for the following reasons. First, anything other than a total ban on human cloning would be unethical. Research cloning would contradict the most fundamental principle of medical ethics, that no human life should be exploited or extinguished for the benefit of another. Yet, a law permitting research cloning, while forbidding the birth of a cloned child, would require the destruction of nascent human life.

Secondly, anything other than a total ban on human cloning would be virtually impossible to enforce. Cloned human embryos created for research would be widely available in laboratories and embryo farms. Once

cloned embryos were available, implantation would take place. Even the tightest regulations and strict policing would not prevent or detect the birth of cloned babies.

Third, the benefits of research cloning are highly speculative. Advocates of research cloning argue that stem cells obtained from cloned embryos would be injected into a genetically identical individual without risk of tissue rejection. But there is evidence, based on animal studies, that cells derived from cloned embryos may indeed be rejected.

Yet, even if research cloning were medically effective, every person who wanted to benefit would need an embryonic clone of his or her own to provide the designer tissues. This would create a massive national market for eggs and egg donors and exploitation of women's bodies that we cannot and must not allow.

I stand firm in my opposition to human cloning. And at the same time, we will pursue other promising and ethical ways to relieve suffering, through biotechnology. This year for the first time, Federal dollars will go towards supporting human embryonic stem cell research consistent with the ethical guidelines I announced last August.

The National Institutes of Health is also funding a broad range of animal and human adult stem cell research. Adult stem cells, which do not require the destruction of human embryos and which yield tissues that can be transplanted without rejection, are more versatile than originally thought. We're making progress. We're learning more about them. And therapies developed from adult stem cells are already helping suffering people.

I support increasing the research budget of the NIH, and I ask Congress to join me in that support. And at the same time, I strongly support a comprehensive law against all human cloning. And I endorse the bill—wholeheartedly endorse the bill—sponsored by Senator Brownback and Senator Mary Landrieu.

This carefully drafted bill would ban all human cloning in the United States, including the cloning of embryos for research. It is nearly identical to the bipartisan legislation that last year passed the House of Representatives by more than a 100-vote margin. It has wide support across the political spectrum. Liberals and conservatives support it. Religious people and nonreligious people support it. Those who are pro-choice and those who are pro-life support the bill. This is a diverse coalition, united by a commitment to prevent the cloning and exploitation of human beings. It would be a mistake for the United States Senate to allow any kind of human cloning to come out of that Chamber.

I'm an incurable optimist about the future of our country. I know we can achieve great things. We can make the world more peaceful. We can become a more compassionate nation. We can push the limits of medical science. I truly believe that we're going to bring hope and healing to countless lives across the country. And as we do, I will insist that we always maintain the highest of ethical standards.

Thank you all for coming.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:18 p.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to H.R. 2505, the proposed "Human Cloning Prohibition Act of 2001."

Proclamation 7539—National D.A.R.E. Day, 2002

April 10, 2002

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Illegal drugs are the enemy of ambition and hope, destroying individual lives and undermining the health of our communities. In addition to the tragic consequences of drug use for Americans and their families, the drug trade supports terrorist networks that threaten our country and our allies around the world. When we fight the war on drugs, we also fight the war on terror.

The Drug Abuse Resistance Education (D.A.R.E) curriculum plays an important role in helping our young people understand the many reasons to avoid drugs. D.A.R.E. is a series of lessons, taught by specially-

trained police officers, that encourages students to live healthy, drug-free lives. According to the University of Akron Institute for Health and Social Policy, the program operates in 80 percent of our school districts, reaching 26 million young people in America each year. In addition to promoting the right decisions about drugs, D.A.R.E. helps build relationships among parents, teachers, law enforcement officers, and others interested in preventing drug use in their communities.

My Administration is committed to keeping the fight against drugs among our Nation's top priorities. I have proposed new goals for our country, including a 10 percent reduction in teenage and adult drug use over the next 2 years, and a 25 percent reduction over 5 years. My National Drug Control Strategy is a community-based approach, incorporating three core principles: (1) stopping drug use before it starts; (2) healing America's drug users; and (3) disrupting the market for drugs in our country. In addition, my 2003 budget proposes $19.2 billion for drug control. This includes $3.8 billion for drug treatment and research, an increase of more than 6 percent over 2002.

Drugs attack everything that is best about our country, robbing Americans, young and old, and their families of dignity and character. Today, we recognize D.A.R.E. as a critical part in our effort to teach young people how to avoid drug use and the devastating effects that drugs can inflict upon their health and on their future.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim April 11, 2002, as National D.A.R.E. Day. I call upon youth, parents, educators, and all Americans to observe this day by joining the fight against drugs in your communities. I also encourage our citizens to express appreciation for the law enforcement officers, volunteers, and others who work to help young people avoid the dangers of drug use.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this tenth day of April, in the year of our Lord two thousand two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-sixth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 10:47 a.m., April 11, 2002]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on April 12.

Remarks on the Proposed "Charity Aid, Recovery, and Empowerment Act of 2002"

April 11, 2002

Elaine, thank you very much. I appreciate the job you're doing. And thanks for that kind introduction. I want to welcome you all here to the White House, the people's house.

It's an honor to welcome those who have heeded a great call, to love your neighbor just like you'd like to be loved yourself. It's a universal call, and it's a call that has been applicable throughout history. It's really needed right now. And so I want to thank you for coming to help discuss a very important issue, an important piece of legislation, a part of making sure the future of our country is hopeful for everybody who lives here.

Part of the reason you're here is so we can unleash your talents and energy on the Hill. [*Laughter*] And I appreciate your willingness to be practical in Washington, because there is a piece of legislation that I hope you work on. It's an urgent time for you to act, and I think it's going to help America. This really isn't about any political party, I want to assure you. It's a way to make sure America is as hopeful as we possibly can be.

I want to thank all those who are here on stage with me, besides the Secretary of Labor. Thank you for coming. I appreciate you being soldiers in the armies of compassion.

I want to thank Senator Santorum, who is the author of the legislation I'm going to talk about, and Senator Brownback from the State of Kansas for coming. As the author of the bill, I thought you might have gotten a better seat. [*Laughter*] Sam got your seat because he was on time. [*Laughter*] I'm still for your bill. [*Laughter*]

Both Senators are fine people and good Members. And I want to thank you all for coming.

I appreciate Cardinal McCarrick for being here as well, my longtime friend. And I want to thank you all.

I don't know if you've met my confidant, Jim Towey, who is here. He works in our Faith-Based Office. There he is. Hi, Jim. How are you? Jim is a remarkable soul who I was able to convince to leave the private sector to come and work. And if you've got any complaints about how charitable choice is working or suggestions about how to make it work better, he's available. His job is to work with the faith community to make America a better place. He was Mother Teresa's lawyer, worked for Democrats and Republicans. This is not a political guy, you'll be pleased to hear. And he'll do his job in a way that will make you proud.

The events of September the 11th were an incredibly dark moment. But the thing I'm most proud about is, through the darkness, our character shined. This is really an unbelievable country we live in. It was heroes who risked their lives, and Americans responded with incredible generosity. I mean, our heart was united with those who lost their—those whose families grieved. It was a remarkable moment, it really was. It was a test of our character. People prayed. All faiths were praying for our country. People grieved together. All the racial issues went away because we all realized we were Americans, with everything at stake—everything at stake.

The organizations directly related to the relief efforts received $2 billion during that quick period of time. The goodness of the country is overcoming the evil done to us.

We're overcoming the evil done to us, as well, through military action. And we will take action. I want to assure you, we don't seek revenge; we seek justice. And I believe that if we're patient and resolved and united, that out of this evil will come lasting peace, peace in regions of the world that might appear now that cannot be peaceful. I believe we can achieve peace by being strong and to lead the world toward peace. Peace is the cornerstone of this Nation's foreign policy; it's what we aim for.

It's going to be—there are going to be some tough moments achieving that peace. But you need to know that we're going to be plenty tough when we need to be tough. And we're going to stay focused on keeping our homeland safe, hunting down barbaric killers one by one. That's our call. History has called us into action, and we must and we will respond.

But we need to do more than just make the world more secure. We need to make the world and our country a better place. In order to really battle evil, we must be more than just a military might. We must be a—we must show our might through our compassion for our fellow citizens.

I gave a speech in Monterrey, Mexico, the other day, talking about how this Nation will help in the development of nations who are poor and who suffer. I was proud to give that speech.

At home, though, we also have got to recognize even though we're a rich and powerful nation, there are pockets of despair and hopelessness. There are too many people in America who wonder whether or not America is meant for them. And so part of our fight to make our country more secure must be one also to make the country a better place for all of us. And the place to start is understanding that the country can be changed one heart, one soul, one conscience at a time.

One person can't do everything, but a person can do something to help somebody. And your jobs as social entrepreneurs and people deeply committed to our future is to gather that love and compassion which exists. And you're doing a great job of doing that, and I want to thank you.

My job is to continue to address the spirit of the country, is to call upon the best, and I will do so. I will remind people, if they want to fight evil, they must do some good. And it's also to recognize problems when they exist and work to solve those problems, to eliminate the hurdles and barriers that prevent the neighborhood healers and helpers from doing their jobs.

The past 7 months have shown how much our country depends on charities. Yet today, America's charities face very difficult times.

It's ironic to me that in the immediate aftermath of September the 11th, we responded, and yet, there are too many charities hurting. Part of it is because of a recession; I recognize that. Part of it is that a lot of money has gone into those charities directly involved with the relief efforts. And that's good, but it's not good enough for the future of our country that many charities suffer today, and we're going to do something about it.

If there is any doubt, let me just quote a few statistics to you to make my point. America's Second Harvest, the country's largest hunger relief charity, reports that more than 80 percent of its affiliates face increased demands for food, while 40 percent have seen a significant drop in food donations and funding. That's a problem.

In Northern California, the United Way is facing an unprecedented fundraising shortfall for 2001. Giving was 14 percent below the year before. That's a problem. The group's leader said this: "I don't think we've ever had a dropoff of this magnitude. It affects our ability to serve our community." And I agree.

The United Way in Orlando was forced to lay off 17 percent of its staff in February because it fell significantly short of its fundraising goal. Many people in this room, many people whose sole purpose is to help an American in need, are confronting greater needs with fewer resources. And our Government must recognize the problem and deal with it in a constructive way.

First, as I mentioned, my job is to call upon Americans to love a neighbor like they'd like to be loved themselves, to understand that being a citizen is more than just a spectator; it's a participant in your community. And I will continue to—I will continue to call upon Americans to serve. And I will continue to talk about the pockets of despair and hopelessness, so that it is clear to those who may be comfortable that they have a—there are some who aren't and we need their help.

And I'm going to make sure that our Government passes legislation that does a couple of things: one, that encourages more private sector giving, that makes giving to the armies of compassion a more profitable venture for the individual by allowing the people to deduct from their income taxes all charitable gifts.

The issue is for those who do not itemize. They don't get to deduct their gifts, and we ought to allow that. We ought to encourage giving by allowing the non-itemizers—listen, charitable giving is important for all of the people in our country, not just the wealthy. Everybody ought to be encouraged to give.

What's called the "CARE Act," the "Charity Aid, Recovery, and Empowerment Act," sponsored by Rick Santorum and Joe Lieberman, have this as a part—as a core part of the bill. It is an important part of the legislation, and I urge you all to take your message to the Finance Committee in the United States Senate that has something to do with this type of legislation. [*Laughter*] I'm sure they'll respond.

You probably know that the House is passing a good piece of legislation already. J.C. Watts and Tony Hall were the sponsors. It passed. And now, so the focus—that's why the focus is on the United States Senate.

The "CARE Act" as well recognizes—oh, by the way, just so the people understand the extent of what we're talking about, 84 million Americans don't itemize and therefore don't have the opportunity to deduct. And we really believe—and I know you agree with me—that changing the tax laws to provide an incentive for the 84 million could and probably will substantially raise the amount of giving in America, which will be really helpful and hopeful and positive.

The other thing the Federal Government must not do is worry about the role of faith-based programs in providing help to people in need. Let me put it a little more bluntly: The Federal Government should not not discriminate against faith. There must be a level playing field available. When we have Federal monies, people should be allowed to access that money without having to lose their mission or change their mission.

We need to know that in our society, faith can move people in ways that Government can't. I mean, Government can write checks, but it can't put hope in people's hearts or a sense of purpose in people's lives. That is done by people who have heard a call and who act on faith and are willing to share that faith. And I'm not talking about a particular

religion. I'm talking about all religions under the Almighty God.

And we should not fear those kind of programs: programs where someone's addiction may be more likely cured because of faith; programs that are willing to go into the prison systems—you know, programs that say, "Well, stamping license plates is okay, but it may not change somebody's life for the better"; programs in which they surround a child with love because of faith and provide a blueprint based upon—a future based upon love for a child. That's what we ought to recognize happens.

Listen, some of the greatest welfare programs in America are on the street corners of inner-city America in a house of worship. Some of the best places where lost souls find hope are in our synagogues. Mosques provide great hope for people who wonder whether America is meant for them. And our Government must recognize the power of these programs. These programs don't have giant bureaucracies and endless rules in which they become entangled. They keep their focus on their mission. They don't keep hours. [*Laughter*] They're open when needed.

There's been some anticrime programs based upon faith, like Brother Rivers, out of Boston, Massachusetts, who has done a fantastic job.

And so this act recognizes that part of the mosaic of aid and comfort in America comes from the faith community and that we shouldn't fear faith, we ought to welcome it in our society. I urge that the "CARE Act" get passed out of the Senate by Memorial Day.

I want to thank the neighborhood healers who are here. One of the things I brag about is the entrepreneurial spirit in America. But people have got to understand, the entrepreneurial spirit just doesn't pertain to starting a business. Our entrepreneurial spirit also pertains to helping people. And one of the great joys of being a candidate and eventually President is the opportunity to see these little programs that start up because somebody has heard a call. I mean, it's an unbelievable part of the fabric of our Nation. Somebody has heard the—said, "I think I'm going to take my energy and my talent into a neighborhood where nobody else has dared walk," and have changed people's lives.

And it is amazing what happens, amazing what happens when you start off—Brother Lusk here started off with—I don't even think—well, it might have been a building; it looked like a building. [*Laughter*] But now he's got this magnificent place in inner-city Philadelphia, because he had a vision and a dream to make something happen.

But it is the effect—and why I feel so strongly about this mission that we're all on is because when that one soul who decides to do something changes a heart, it is likely that heart that's been changed is willing to change another heart. And it's that effect that will have an incredibly profound effect on all of us.

In order to fight evil, we must do good. It is the gathering momentum of millions of acts of kindness and compassion which define the true face of America, that shows what this country is truly made out of. On the one hand, we are strong and tough militarily, but on the other hand, that is—we are a nation that is compassionate and decent and caring. And no evil, no terrorist can extinguish that light.

God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:33 p.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Secretary of Labor Elaine Chao, who introduced the President; Theodore Cardinal McCarrick, Archbishop of Washington; Rev. Eugene Rivers, pastor, Azusa Christian Community, and cofounder, Boston Ten Point Coalition; and Rev. Herbert Lusk II, pastor, Greater Exodus Baptist Church, and founder/president, People for People, Inc. The President also referred to S. 1924, the proposed "Charity Aid, Recovery, and Empowerment Act of 2002" and H.R. 7, the proposed "Community Solutions Act of 2001."

Statement on Senate Action on Election Reform Legislation

April 11, 2002

I commend the Senate for passing an election reform bill and bringing us a step closer to enacting legislation this year. I look forward to working with conferees to make sure

the reforms reflect the principles outlined by the bipartisan Ford/Carter Commission that respect the primacy of State and local governments and envision a limited but responsible role for the Federal Government.

Statement on House of Representatives Action on Pension Reform Legislation

April 11, 2002

Employees need more information about their pension plans and more control over them. I commend Chairman Thomas, Chairman Boehner, and Congressman Portman, and the bipartisan majority in the House for passing pension reform legislation that accomplishes these objectives. The reforms will give employees better access to investment advice, additional notice of blackouts, and increased ability to diversify. Importantly, the reforms adhere to the principle that what is right for executives is also right for workers. I look forward to Senate action on this critical issue.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

April 6

In the afternoon, from the Bush Ranch in Crawford, TX, the President had a telephone conversation with Prime Minister Ariel Sharon of Israel concerning the situation in the Middle East.

In the evening, the President and Mrs. Bush hosted a dinner at the Bush Ranch for Prime Minister Tony Blair of the United Kingdom, his wife, Cherie, their daughter, Kathryn, and Mrs. Blair's mother, Gale Booth.

April 7

In the afternoon, the President returned to Washington, DC.

April 8

In the morning, the President had intelligence briefings. Later, he traveled to Knoxville, TN.

In the afternoon, he returned to Washington, DC.

The White House announced that the President will welcome President Rudolf Schuster of the Slovak Republic to the White House on June 7.

April 9

In the morning, the President traveled to Bridgeport, CT, and later to Greenwich, CT. In the afternoon, he returned to Washington, DC.

The White House announced that the President will meet with King Mohamed VI of Morocco at the White House on April 23 to discuss developments in the Middle East and other key bilateral issues.

The President announced his intention to nominate Stuart D. Rick to be a member of the Merit Systems Protection Board.

The President announced his intention to appoint the following individuals as members of the Board of Directors of the Vietnam Education Foundation: Herbert Monroe Allison, Jr., Robert Leamon Bryant, Chung Wook Kim, Tuan Joseph Pham, Frank Jao, and Marilyn Castor Mashon Pattillo.

The President announced his intention to appoint the following individuals as members of the Advisory Committee to the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation: George M. Kraw and Judith F. Mazo (Employee Representatives), and Mary Ann Melody Larson McDonald (Public Representative).

The President announced his intention to appoint the following individuals as members of the Advisory Committee on the Arts, John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts: Judson C. Ball, Bray Bruce Barnes, William Dewayne Dunlap, Ann Hundley Hoover, Linda Nordstrom, Wilbur O. Powers, Noel Quinones, Juan F. Woodroffe, and T. Caroline D. Wyly.

The President announced his intention to designate Terry Bathen as Acting Inspector

General for the Corporation for National and Community Service.

April 10

In the morning, the President had CIA and FBI briefings and met with the National Security Council. Later, he met with Republican House and Senate leaders to discuss the upcoming congressional agenda.

In the afternoon, the President met with Republican House Members to discuss welfare reform. Later, in the Oval Office, he met with California Republican gubernatorial candidate Bill Simon.

The White House announced that the President will welcome President Andres Pastrana of Colombia to the White House on April 18 to discuss cooperation against terrorism and drug interdiction efforts.

April 11

In the morning, the President had a breakfast meeting with Speaker of the House of Representatives Dennis J. Hastert, Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle, Senate Minority Leader Trent Lott, and House Minority Leader Richard A. Gephardt. Later, he had CIA and FBI briefings. He also had a telephone conversation with King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa of Bahrain concerning the situation in the Middle East.

In the afternoon, the President had lunch with Vice President Dick Cheney.

The White House announced that the President will meet with Prime Minister Rafiq Hariri of Lebanon at the White House on April 17.

April 12

In the morning, from the Oval Office, the President had separate telephone conversations with President Vladimir Putin of Russia and Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi of Italy concerning a possible NATO-Russia summit to be held in Italy in May. He then had CIA and FBI briefings and met with the National Security Council.

Also in the morning, the President met with Edmund Stoiber, opposition candidate for Chancellor of Germany. Also, in the Oval Office, he met with Sarah Hughes, 2002 Olympic gold medalist for women's figure skating, and her mother, Amy Hughes, and coach, Robin Wagner. He also met with U.S. Trade Representative Robert B. Zoellick.

In the afternoon, the President traveled to Camp David, MD.

The President announced his intention to appoint Michael F. Duffy as a member of the Federal Mine Safety and Health Review Commission.

The President announced his intention to appoint David Horton Wilkins as a member of the Board of Visitors to the U.S. Military Academy.

The President announced his intention to appoint the following individuals as members of the President's Commission on White House Fellowships: Victoria Arias, Myrna Blyth, Corrine Claiborne Boggs, Julie Nixon Eisenhower, Ronald Robert Fogleman, Lisa Guillermin Gable, Kay Coles James, Jay L. Johnson, Edith Hollan Jones, Jeffrey C. Pope, William L. Roper, James Smith, and Barbara F. Vucanovich.

The President announced his intention to appoint James David Gwartney, Patricia Louise Herbold, and Demaris H. Miller as members of the President's Council on the 21st Century Workforce.

Nominations Submitted to the Senate

The following list does not include promotions of members of the Uniformed Services, nominations to the Service Academies, or nominations of Foreign Service officers.

Submitted April 9

Lillian R. BeVier,
of Virginia, to be a member of the Board of Directors of the Legal Services Corporation for a term expiring July 13, 2004, vice Hulett Hall Askew, term expired.

Walter Robert Bradley,
of Kansas, to be U.S. Marshal for the District of Kansas for the term of 4 years, vice Richard Rand Rock II, term expired.

Sharon Brown-Hruska,
of Virginia, to be a Commissioner of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission for the remainder of the term expiring April 13, 2004, vice William J. Rainer, resigned.

Ray Elmer Carnahan,
of Arkansas, to be U.S. Marshal for the Eastern District of Arkansas for the term of 4 years, vice Conrad S. Pattillo, term expired.

Jack C. Chow,
of Pennsylvania, for the rank of Ambassador during his tenure of service as Special Representative of the Secretary of State for HIV/AIDS.

Robert J. Dieter,
of Colorado, to be a member of the Board of Directors of the Legal Services Corporation for a term expiring July 13, 2002, vice F. William McCalpin, term expired.

Robert J. Dieter,
of Colorado, to be a member of the Board of Directors of the Legal Services Corporation for a term expiring July 13, 2005 (reappointment).

Thomas A. Fuentes,
of California, to be a member of the Board of Directors of the Legal Services Corporation for a term expiring July 13, 2002, vice Thomas F. Smegal, Jr., term expired.

Thomas A. Fuentes,
of California, to be a member of the Board of Directors of the Legal Services Corporation for a term expiring July 13, 2005 (reappointment).

Michael McKay,
of Washington, to be a member of the Board of Directors of the Legal Services Corporation for a term expiring July 13, 2004, vice Nancy Hardin Rogers, term expired.

Theresa A. Merrow,
of Kentucky, to be U.S. Marshal for the Middle District of Georgia for the term of 4 years, vice Lawson Cary Bittick, term expired.

Stuart D. Rick,
of Maryland, to be a member of the Merit Systems Protection Board for the term of 7 years expiring March 1, 2007, vice Barbara J. Sapin.

Ned L. Siegel,
of Florida, to be a member of the Board of Directors of the Overseas Private Investment Corporation for a term expiring December 17, 2003, vice Miguel D. Lausell.

Steven J. Simmons,
of Connecticut, to be a member of the Broadcasting Board of Governors for the remainder of the term expiring August 13, 2003, vice Alberto J. Mora.

Frank B. Strickland,
of Georgia, to be a member of the Board of Directors of the Legal Services Corporation for a term expiring July 13, 2004, vice John N. Erlenborn, term expired.

John Peter Suarez,
of New Jersey, to be an Assistant Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, vice Steven Alan Herman, resigned.

Submitted April 12

Jeremy H. G. Ibrahim,
of Pennsylvania, to be a member of the Foreign Claims Settlement Commission of the United States for the term expiring September 30, 2002, vice Richard Thomas White, term expired.

Jeremy H. G. Ibrahim,
of Pennsylvania, to be a member of the Foreign Claims Settlement Commission of the United States for the term expiring September 30, 2005 (reappointment).

David B. Rivkin, Jr.,
of Virginia, to be a member of the Foreign Claims Settlement Commission of the United States for the term expiring September 30, 2004, vice Laramie Faith McNamara.

Checklist of White House Press Releases

The following list contains releases of the Office of the Press Secretary that are neither printed as

items nor covered by entries in the Digest of Other White House Announcements.

Released April 8

Transcript of a press gaggle by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Statement by the Press Secretary: President Rudolf Schuster of the Slovak Republic To Visit Washington

Statement by the Press Secretary on the IRA's completion of another act of decommissioning

Statement by the Press Secretary on Israeli Withdrawal From Two West Bank Towns

Advance text of remarks by National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice at the William Waldo Cameron Forum on Public Affairs

Transcript of remarks by Homeland Security Director Tom Ridge to the American Hospital Association

Fact sheet: Protecting American Jobs & Our Economy Against Terrorist Attacks

Fact sheet: Citizen Corps Grows Strong in America's Communities

Released April 9

Transcript of a press gaggle by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Statement by the Press Secretary: King Mohamed VI of Morocco To Visit White House

Fact sheet: Strengthening Opportunities To Serve In America's Communities

Announcement of nominations of U.S. Marshals for the District of Kansas, the Eastern District of Arkansas, and the Middle District of Georgia, and nominations of U.S. Attorneys for the Eastern District of Wisconsin and the Central District of Illinois

Released April 10

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Statement by the Press Secretary: President Pastrana of Colombia To Visit Washington

Released April 11

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Statement by the Press Secretary: Visit of Prime Minister Rafiq Hariri of Lebanon

Statement by the Press Secretary: Visit by Vice President Hu Jintao of China (meeting with the Vice President)

Advance text of remarks by Homeland Security Director Tom Ridge to the American Society of Newspaper Editors

Fact sheet: President Calls for Action by Memorial Day To Help America's Charities

Fact sheet: Strengthening Homeland Security Since 9/11

Released April 12

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Announcement: President and Mrs. Bush Release 2001 Tax Return

Announcement of nomination for U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of Florida

Acts Approved by the President

NOTE: No acts approved by the President were received by the Office of the Federal Register during the period covered by this issue.

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